PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 519 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
22 November 2010—3 December 2010

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(Formed by the Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP, May 2010)

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service—The Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP

Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Council—The Rt Hon. Nick Clegg, MP

First Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—The Rt Hon. William Hague, MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer—The Rt Hon. George Osborne, MP

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice—The Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP

Secretary of State for Defence—The Rt Hon. Liam Fox, MP

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills—The Rt Hon. Vince Cable, MP

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions—The Rt Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, MP

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change—The Rt Hon. Chris Huhne, MP

Secretary of State for Health—The Rt Hon. Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP

Secretary of State for Education—The Rt Hon. Michael Gove, MP

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles, MP

Secretary of State for Transport—The Rt Hon. Philip Hammond, MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman, MP

Secretary of State for International Development—The Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland—The Rt Hon. Owen Paterson, MP

Secretary of State for Scotland—The Rt Hon. Michael Moore, MP

Secretary of State for Wales—The Rt Hon. Cheryl Gillan, MP

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport—The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP

Chief Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt Hon. Danny Alexander, MP

Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—The Rt Hon. Lord Strathclyde

Minister without Portfolio—The Rt Hon. Baroness Warsi

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Business, Innovation and Skills—

Secretary of State and President of the Board of Trade—The Rt Hon. Vince Cable, MP

Ministers of State—
    The Rt Hon. David Willetts, MP (Minister for Universities and Science)
    John Hayes, MP (Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning) §
    Mark Prisk, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
    Edward Davey, MP
    Edward Vaizey, MP §
    Baroness Wilcox

Cabinet Office—

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General—The Rt Hon. Francis Maude, MP

Minister of State—The Rt Hon. Oliver Letwin, MP

Parliamentary Secretaries—
    Mark Harper, MP
    Nick Hurd, MP

Communities and Local Government—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles, MP

Ministers of State—
    The Rt Hon. Greg Clark, MP
    The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps, MP (Minister for Housing and Local Government)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
    Andrew Stunell, OBE, MP
    Robert Neill, MP
    Baroness Hanham, CBE

Culture, Media and Sport—

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CULTURE, OLYMPICS, MEDIA AND SPORT—The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    John Penrose, MP
    Hugh Robertson, MP (Minister for Sport and the Olympics)
    Edward Vaizey, MP §

Defence—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Liam Fox, MP
MINISTER OF STATE—Nick Harvey, MP (Minister for the Armed Forces)
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Gerald Howarth, MP
    Andrew Robathan, MP
    Peter Luff, MP
    Lord Astor of Hever, DL §

Duchy of Lancaster—

LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER—The Rt Hon. Lord Strathclyde

Education—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Michael Gove, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
    Sarah Teather, MP
    Nick Gibb, MP
    John Hayes, MP (Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning) §
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Tim Loughton, MP
    Lord Hill of Oareford

Energy and Climate Change—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Chris Huhne, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
    Charles Hendry, MP
    Gregory Barker, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—Lord Marland

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman, MP
MINISTER OF STATE—James Paice, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Richard Benyon, MP
    Lord Henley

Foreign and Commonwealth Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. William Hague, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
    Jeremy Browne, MP
    David Lidington, MP (Minister for Europe)
    The Rt Hon. Lord Howell of Guildford
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Henry Bellingham, MP
    Alistair Burt, MP

Government Equalities Office—

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITIES—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP §
MINISTER FOR EQUALITIES—Lynne Featherstone, MP §

Health—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP
MINISTERS OF STATE—
    Paul Burstow, MP
    Simon Burns, MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Anne Milton, MP
    Earl Howe

Home Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITIES—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP §
MINISTERS OF STATE—
    Damian Green, MP (Minister for Immigration)
    The Rt Hon. Nick Herbert, MP (Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice) §
    The Rt Hon. Baroness Neville-Jones (Minister for Security)
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Lynne Featherstone, MP (Minister for Equalities) §
    James Brokenshire, MP

International Development—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Alan Duncan, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—Stephen O'Brien, MP

Justice—

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
- The Rt Hon. Lord McNally
- The Rt Hon. Nick Herbert, MP (Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice) §

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
- Crispin Blunt, MP
- Jonathan Djanogly, MP

Law Officers—

ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve, QC, MP

SOLICITOR-GENERAL—Edward Garnier, QC, MP

ADVOCATE-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND—The Rt Hon. Lord Wallace of Tankerness, QC

Leader of the House of Commons—

LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND LORD PRIVY SEAL—The Rt Hon. Sir George Young, MP

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—David Heath, CBE, MP

Northern Ireland—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Owen Paterson, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—Hugo Swire, MP

Privy Council Office—

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL—The Rt Hon. Nick Clegg, MP

Scotland Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Michael Moore, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. David Mundell, MP

Transport—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Philip Hammond, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Theresa Villiers, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
- Norman Baker, MP
- Mike Penning, MP

Treasury—

PRIME MINISTER, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY AND MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE—The Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER—The Rt Hon. George Osborne, MP

CHIEF SECRETARY—The Rt Hon. Danny Alexander, MP

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—Mark Hoban, MP

EXCHEQUER SECRETARY—David Gauke, MP

ECONOMIC SECRETARY—Justine Greening, MP

COMMERCIAL SECRETARY—Lord Sassoon

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—The Rt Hon. Patrick McLoughlin, MP

LORDS COMMISSIONERS—
- Michael Fabricant, MP
- Angela Watkinson, MP
- Jeremy Wright, MP
- Brooks Newmark, MP
- James Duddridge, MP

ASSISTANT WHIPS—
- Philip Dunne, MP
- Stephen Crabb, MP
- Robert Goodwill, MP
- Shailesh Vara, MP
- Bill Wiggin, MP
- Chloe Smith, MP
- Norman Lamb, MP
- Mark Hunter, MP

Wales Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Cheryl Gillan, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—David Jones, MP

Work and Pensions—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
    The Rt Hon. Chris Grayling, MP
    Steve Webb, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Maria Miller, MP
    Lord Freud

Her Majesty's Household—

LORD CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt Hon. Earl Peel, GCVO, DL

LORD STEWARD—The Earl of Dalhousie

MASTER OF THE HORSE—Lord Vestey, KCVO

TREASURER—The Rt Hon. John Randall, MP

COMPTROLLER—Alistair Carmichael, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt Hon. Mark Francois, MP

CAPTAIN OF THE HONOURABLE CORPS OF GENTLEMEN-AT-ARMS—The Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns, DBE

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD—The Rt Hon. Lord Shutt of Greetland, OBE

BARONESSES IN WAITING—Baroness Northover, Baroness Rawlings, Baroness Verma

LORDS IN WAITING—Earl Attlee, Lord Astor of Hever §, DL, Lord De Mauley, TD, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, CBE, Lord Wallace of Saltaire

§ *Members of the Government listed under more than one Department*

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Tony Baldry, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Speaker—The Rt Hon. John Bercow, MP

Chairman of Ways and Means—Lindsay Hoyle, MP
First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Nigel Evans, MP
Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—The Rt Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP

Panel of Chairs
Mr David Amess, MP, Hugh Bayley, MP, Miss Anne Begg, MP, Mr Joe Benton, MP, Mr Clive Betts, MP, Mr Peter Bone, MP, Mr Graham Brady, MP, Annette Brooke, MP, Martin Caton, MP, Mr Christopher Chope, MP, Katy Clark, MP, Mr David Crausby, MP, Philip Davies, MP, Jim Dobbin, MP, Mr Roger Gale, MP, Mr James Gray, MP, Mr Mike Hancock, MP, Mr Philip Hollobone, MP, Mr Jim Hood, MP, The Rt Hon. George Howarth, MP, Mr Edward Leigh, MP, Dr William McCrea, MP, Miss Anne McIntosh, MP, Mrs Anne Main, MP, Albert Owen, MP, Mrs Linda Riordan, MP, John Robertson, MP, Andrew Rosindell, MP, Jim Sheridan, MP, Mr Gary Streeter, MP, Mr Andrew Turner, MP, Mr Charles Walker, MP, Mr Mike Weir, MP, Hywel Williams, MP

House of Commons Commission
The Rt Hon. The Speaker (Chairman), Sir Stuart Bell, MP, The Rt Hon. Hilary Benn, MP, Sir Paul Beresford, MP, John Thurso, MP, The Rt Hon. Sir George Young, MP

Secretary of the Commission—Dorian Gerhold

Assistant Secretary—Robert Cope

Administration Estimate Audit Committee
Alex Jablonowski (Chairman), The Rt Hon. Hilary Benn, MP, The Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP, John Thurso, MP, Stephen Brooker, Mark Clarke

Secretary of the Audit Committee—Hannah White, PhD

Management Board
Malcolm Jack, PhD (Chief Executive), Robert Rogers (Director General, Chamber and Committee Services), John Pullinger (Director General, Information Services), Andrew Walker (Director General, Resources), John Borley, CB (Director General, Facilities), Joan Miller (Director of Parliamentary ICT) (External Member), Alex Jablonowski (External Member)

Secretary of the Management Board—Matthew Hamlyn

Speaker's Secretary—Kate Emms

Speaker's Counsel—Michael Carpenter

Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Medical Adviser to the Speaker—Dr Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB
Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

22 November 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 22 November 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Social Housing

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I am today publishing a policy paper which sets out the Government's plans to reform the social housing system. These changes will provide greater freedoms for local authorities, make better use of resources, promote fairness, and ensure that support is focused on the most vulnerable people in society.

The case for reform is strong. Our social housing is an enormously valuable national asset, providing essential support for millions of families. However, the current social housing system is failing the people it was designed to help. There are nearly 1.8 million households on social housing waiting lists—many of whom have little chance of ever receiving a social tenancy. In far too many cases the allocation of a social home leads not to independence and self-sufficiency, but appears instead to reduce incentives to work and to leave people trapped in poverty.

Social landlords provide lifetime tenancies as the default option—so that households continue to occupy a social home and to pay low rents, even if they no longer need this support. This cannot be right when so many other households in need are unable to access social housing. It is also not sensible that decisions on the types of tenancy to be awarded should be rigidly set at national level: these are decisions with local consequences which should be taken locally.

Currently, people owed the main homelessness duty can effectively insist on being offered social housing, whether they need it or not, taking around a fifth of new social lettings. This significantly restricts the number of social homes that could be made available to others in need on the housing waiting list.

We have already announced that—from April 2011—we will introduce a new affordable rent model for housing associations to offer to new tenants on a flexible tenancy and at a rent of up to 80% of local market rents. I can now inform the House that I intend to introduce a new power for local authorities to offer fixed-term, "flexible" tenancies where they consider it is appropriate when letting social housing. This will be in addition to, rather than replacing, the power to grant lifetime tenancies. With these new powers, and with a more flexible approach to regulation of both local authorities and housing associations, social landlords will be able to provide tenancies with a range of fixed periods that take account of the needs of individual tenants and the needs of the local community, and that enable the efficient management of their stock.

These reforms will only affect new tenancies. I will ensure that the security and rights of existing social tenants continue to be protected and respected. Important rights for new flexible tenants will be protected in legislation, and through new provisions to regulate social landlords through a "tenancy standard", on which we are seeking views.

On succession rights, my intention is that all new secure and flexible tenancies will include a right to one succession for spouses and partners, but I will provide all social landlords with the flexibility to grant whatever additional succession rights they choose. No changes will be made to the succession rights of existing tenants.

Local authorities will regain the freedom to decide who should qualify to be considered for social housing and go on to their waiting list. Government will retain a role in determining who should have priority, to ensure that social housing continues to be available for those in greatest need.

We will also make it easier for social landlords to help existing tenants, previously trapped in unsuitable housing but unable to move because they lack sufficient priority within the allocations scheme. We propose to enable tenants who are not in housing need to transfer from one affordable home to another outside the allocations system. This should make it possible for more moves to take place.

Local authorities will also be able to discharge fully the main homelessness duty by arranging an offer of suitable accommodation in the private rented sector, without requiring the applicant's agreement. We will provide protection: we will ensure that the private rented tenancies offered must be for a minimum fixed-term of 12 months; and that, if the person becomes homeless again through no fault of their own within two years of accepting a private sector offer, the homelessness duty will apply again.

My intention is to introduce the necessary legislation to deliver these reforms in the forthcoming localism Bill.

The policy paper which I am issuing today provides details of these changes and sets them in the context of the wider reforms to social housing which were announced in the spending review—to reform the way council housing is financed and to bring empty homes back into use as affordable housing—as well as our plans to provide for greater housing mobility and to change the way social housing is regulated. The paper makes clear that we are seeking views on the content of a tenancy standard; on the case for further reforms to social housing allocations; and on the need for further reforms to address overcrowding. We are also inviting local authorities and housing associations to comment on how they would expect to use the new freedoms and flexibilities. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): I am announcing today that the Government will introduce a phonics screening check for children in year 1. This will be a short, light-touch screening check based on phonic decoding designed to confirm that children have grasped the basics of phonic decoding and identify those pupils who need extra help at an early stage, so that schools can provide support. The results of the test will provide valuable information to parents.

This screening check will play a significant role in improving reading standards in our schools. Despite the hard work of teachers and pupils, a significant minority of pupils persistently under-achieve—in 2010, 15% of seven-year-olds failed to achieve the expected level in reading. Early literacy is crucial so that children can access the whole curriculum, and are able to read for enjoyment and understanding.

The evidence shows that systematic synthetic phonics, taught in the first years of a child's education, is a highly effective way of teaching children to read. A year 1 phonics screening check will enable us to pinpoint those who are struggling with phonics at an early age so they can receive the help they need to progress.

The Department is launching a public consultation today asking teachers, parents and the public to submit views on how the test should be structured and administered. The screening check will be piloted in summer 2011 and rolled out nationally in the 2011-12 academic year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sudan (UN Security Council Special Session)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I am pleased to update the House with regard to the UN special session on Sudan I chaired at the UN Security Council on 16 November in New York. The session was attended by: UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon; Head of the African Union high-level implementation panel, President Mbeki; Sudanese Foreign Minister, Ali Karti; Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Pagan Amum; UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Special Representative, Haile Menkerios; UN/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Special Representative, Ibrahim Gambari; US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton; Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs, Dr Michael Spindelegger; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sven Alkalaj; and Nigerian Foreign Minister, Henry Odein Ajumogobia. Deputy Foreign Ministers from Brazil, Uganda and Japan also attended as did Permanent Representatives from China, Russia, France, Lebanon, Gabon, Mexico and Turkey.

As I made clear to the UN Security Council in my statement, this is a defining moment for Sudan and its people, as they enter the final stages of the comprehensive peace agreement. It is a period of great risk and therefore a situation that the Security Council cannot ignore; but it is also a time of opportunity that the world cannot let go by. It is vital that the international community stands united and steadfast in its support of the CPA. That is why Sudan is the top priority for the UK's presidency of the Security Council this month and why I convened a special session of the Council last week to discuss Sudan.

I welcome the start of voter registration for the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan which began as scheduled on 15 November. This is the first of a series of essential steps. Early indications suggest that registration is proceeding in an orderly manner. We must all encourage timely and calm completion of this process. The process must be peaceful, credible and reflect the will of the people of southern Sudan.

We must support the parties in their efforts to agree outstanding CPA issues, particularly on the status of Abyei. I am encouraged by political talks between the parties to address issues of fundamental and long-term importance to both north and south, including citizenship, security arrangements, natural resources, assets and liabilities and the north/south border. I welcome the strong leadership of President Mbeki in bringing the parties together and welcome the work of the UN under Special Representative Haile Menkerios.

We must not lose sight of the situation in Darfur, where hundreds of thousands have suffered and died. We must work intensively with all parties involved towards a peaceful and inclusive political settlement, addressing the violence and insecurity, including by combating impunity, and supporting the peace talks in Doha. As I reiterated in New York we strongly support the work of the International Criminal Court in Darfur and urge the Government of Sudan to comply with their obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1593.

I strongly support the role of the UN/AU mission in Darfur under the leadership of Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari. Access for humanitarian workers and peacekeepers must be improved and kidnappings in Darfur must end.

I welcome the role played by the Chief Mediator, Djbril Bassolé, and the support of the Government of Qatar. I urge all parties to participate in peace talks to put a definitive end to the misery in Darfur.

A stable Sudan will help build security and prosperity in the region. It will mean that Sudan does not again become a base for terrorism, or a source of refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries. And most importantly, it will help the Sudanese people receive the tangible benefits of peace that have eluded them for so long. We must continue to strive to this end. I will be discussing Sudan at the Foreign Affairs Council today and will use the opportunity to stress the importance of finding solutions to the issues facing Sudan and supporting the parties in their efforts to bring a lasting peace to Sudan.

My statement to the UNSC can be found at:

http://ukinsudan.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=Speech&id=93202682.

The presidency statement on behalf of the Security Council can be found at: http://ukinsudan.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=Speech&id=92388682.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sudan Visit

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I wish to update the House on my visit to Sudan between 8 and 11 November 2010. During my visit to Khartoum, El-Fasher and Juba, I met with: Vice President, Ali Osman Taha; President of the Government of southern Sudan, Salva Kiir; presidential adviser on Darfur, Ghazi Salah al-Din al-Atabani; other Government Ministers; a range of Sudan's political leaders; the chairman of the southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC), Professor Ibrahim Khalil; and members of civil society. I also met with: visiting UN Under-Secretary Generals, Baroness Amos and Alain Le Roy; UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Special Representative Haile Menkerios; UN/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari; members of the UN Country Team; humanitarian actors; and NGOs. In Juba, I opened the new HMG Office, which will house staff from DFID, the FCO, the Stabilisation Unit and the Ministry of Defence.

In north and south Sudan, I stressed the importance of the referendum being credible, peaceful and on time. I delivered messages on the importance of both parties agreeing the outstanding comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) issues such as Abyei, citizenship and the border. The UK is actively supporting the referendum, including through financial support to the UN development programme basket fund for the referendum process which will provide voter education, civic education, practical assistance and technical support. We are also providing technical assistance to the talks on border demarcation and security arrangements.

I made it clear to the Governments in the north and south that the UK is committed to the longer-term future of both north and south Sudan whatever the outcome of the referendum. Through successful completion and implementation of the CPA and progress towards peace and justice in Darfur, the north has an opportunity to change its political relationships with the international community. The Government of southern Sudan must set out a vision for the future with which its citizens can engage, including making appropriate investments to support diversification of the economy into non-oil activity. The UK has a substantial development programme in south Sudan, an area where thousands of adults are illiterate and women and children are more likely to die in childbirth than complete primary education. Among other benefits, this programme has already provided basic services for over 1.8 million people so far. We remain committed to supporting the long-term future of southern Sudan, and working with the Government to help improve the lives of those who live there.

I found the situation in Darfur much changed since the Prime Minister and I visited in 2006, but in discussions with Government Ministers and advisers, I underlined my concern about the security situation in parts of the three states. I called for the immediate and unconditional release of the four European nationals currently being held hostage (one Hungarian UNAMID peacekeeper and three Latvian world food programme pilots), and stressed the need for the full and unhindered access for humanitarian workers and peacekeepers. I urged all sides to refrain from military escalation in Darfur, and to engage constructively with the AU/UN mediation to work towards an inclusive and sustainable peace agreement for Darfur. I reiterated the UK's support for the International Criminal Court and urged the Government of Sudan to engage with the Court.

I underlined to senior UN representatives that the international community could not be caught short in its preparedness to respond to a referendum-related humanitarian crisis in Sudan. I stressed the need for the UN and its agencies to have comprehensive contingency plans in place to address any potential future challenges.

The UK is determined to help improve the lives of the Sudanese people. But only if peace is kept and conflict avoided, will development succeed and those lives truly be improved.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 23 November 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Attorney-General (Mr Dominic Grieve): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £10,977,000 from £686,875,000 to £697,852,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	10,977	-	659,077	36,182	695,259
of which:					
Administration budget	-	-	60,948	-	60,948
Capital DEL[1]	-	-	11,840	-	11,840
Less Depreciation[2]	-	-	-9,247	-	-9,247
Total DEL	10,977	-	661,670	36,182	697,852

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £8,185,000 from £633,242,000 to £641,427,000.

The change in Resource DEL arises from budgetary transfers totalling £8,185,000 from the Ministry of Justice consisting of

£4,300,000 to help fund the Compass Case Management System

£2,600,000 from Victim Surcharge collections

£785,000 to provide support for the Local Criminal Justice Boards

£500,000 to help fund the delivery of the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007

The Serious Fraud Office's (SFO) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £2,792,000 from £38,754,000 to £41,546,000.

The change in Resource DEL arises from the take up of £2,792,000 in blockbuster funding relating to UN Oil for Food cases to enable the SFO to continue with the investigation and prosecution of outstanding cases in 2010-11.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' DEL will be reduced by £3,796,000 from £20,805,607,000 to £20,801,811,000 and the Administration budget will be increased by £2,300,000 from £321,187,000 to £323,487,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource (£000)	(220,865)	217,069	7,772,927	11,263,059	19,035,986
of which					
Administration[1] budget	2,300	0	319,843	3,644	323,487
Near cash in Resource DEL[2]	(220,965)	217,169	6,210,394	11,094,742	17,305,136
Capital (£000)	(27,085)	27,085	699,571	1,302,762	2,002,333
Less Depreciation[3] (£000)	(100)	100	(68,191)	(168,317)	(236,508)
Total (£000)	(248,050)	244,254	8,404,307	12,397,504	20,801,811

[1] The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) An increase in voted receipts from the Department for Work and Pensions of £6,179,000 and an increase of non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies in respect of self-employment programmes;

ii) A budget transfer from the Department for Work and Pensions of £413,000 of non-voted expenditure for the Regional Development Agencies in respect of the School Gates initiative;

iii) An increase in voted receipts from the Department for Transport of £228,000 and an increase of non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies in respect of delivering a sustainable transport system;

iv) A virement of £535,000 from voted expenditure to non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies in relation to National Business Link marketing;

v) Virements from voted expenditure by the Strategic Investment Fund to non-voted expenditure by the Technology Strategy Board for the establishment of the UK Life Sciences Super Cluster initiative (£595,000), to advance new "prize" funds in emerging technologies (£5,000,000), the Composites Challenge Fund (£6,000,000), and the Industrial Biotechnical Demonstrator Fund (£2,555,000);

vi) A virement from the Strategic Investment Fund to the Skills Funding Agency (RfR3) of £3,700,000 for the automotive industry;

vii) A virement of £97,000 from the Skills Funding Agency (RfR3) to non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies for Train to Gain;

viii) A virement of £350,000 from Higher Education participation programmes (RfR3) for joint BIS funding of the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship;

ix) A virement of £20,000,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision to non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (RfR3);

x) A virement of £496,000 from Science and Society (RfR2) to corporate services;

xi) A virement of £2,533,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision for voted expenditure on research and analytical services (RfR3);

xii) A virement of £25,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision for voted expenditure on Government Skills (RfR3);

xiii) A virement of £3,102,000 consultancy savings (RfR3) to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision;

xiv) A virement of £60,000 from Premature Retirement Compensation and Voluntary Colleges (RfR3) to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision;

RfR2

i) A virement of £13,000 from voted Research-Based Initiatives to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision for Science;

ii) A virement of £496,000 from Science and Society to corporate services (RfR1);

RfR3

i) A virement from voted expenditure to non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England of Higher Education Shared Services (£20,000,000), the Higher Education Modernisation Fund (£133,000,000), Higher Education participation programmes (£10,500,000) and Annual Population Survey (£140,000);

ii) A virement of £14,000,000 from voted expenditure by the Skills Funding Agency to non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England;

iii) A transfer of £1,990,000 from the Department for Education to non-voted expenditure by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills for the National Vocational Qualifications Levy;

iv) A transfer of £4,280,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government for the Migration Impact Fund;

v) A transfer of £9,521,000 from the Ministry of Justice for Offender Learning;

vi) A transfer of £20,000,000 from the Skills Funding Agency to the Department for Education for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities;

vii) A virement of £2,533,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (RfR1) for voted expenditure on research and analytical services;

viii) A virement of £25,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (RfR1) for voted expenditure on Government Skills;

ix) A virement of £60,000 from Premature Retirement Compensation and Voluntary Colleges to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (RfR1);

x) A virement of £3,102,000 consultancy savings to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (RfR1);

xi) An increase of £4,176,000 in non-voted expenditure by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, and increased voted contributions from other Departments;

xii) A virement from the Strategic Investment Fund (RfR1) to the Skills Funding Agency of £3,700,000 for the Automotive Industry;

xiii) A virement of £97,000 from the Skills Funding Agency to non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies (RfR1) for Train to Gain;

xiv) A virement of £350,000 from Higher Education participation programmes to RfR1 for joint BIS funding of the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship;

xv) An increase in voted receipts of £823,000 from the Department for Education for "Routes into Languages" funding to be distributed as non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England;

xvi) An increase in voted receipts of £299,000 from the Department for Education for Repayment of Teacher Loan work to be undertaken by the non-voted Student Loans Company;

xvii) A virement of £930,000 to voted Higher Education Student Support from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England;

xviii) A virement of £6,048,000 from voted Higher Education Student Support to non-voted expenditure by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills;

xix) A virement of £4,904,000 from voted Higher Education Student Support to non-voted expenditure by the Student Loans Company;

xx) A virement of £100,000 from non-voted expenditure by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to Adult Skills and Learner Support;

xxi) A virement of £20,000,000 from the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (RfR1) to non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England;

Also within the change to resource DEL, the changes to the Administration budget are (RfR1):

i) A virement of £2,300,000 from programme to administration using the Digital Switchover helpscheme underspend to fund broadband expansion;

The change in the Capital element of the DEL arises from:

RfR1

i) A virement of £10,000,000 from voted expenditure by the London Development Agency to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision;

ii) A virement of £5,000,000 from voted expenditure of the Strategic Investment Fund to non-voted expenditure of the Technology Strategy Board for Competition IV - Low Carbon vehicle supply chains;

iii) An increase of £32,400,000 in voted receipts from the Department for Transport and an increase in non-voted expenditure by the Regional Development Agencies in respect of regional infrastructure funds;

iv) A virement of £5,000,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (RfR3) to voted expenditure by British Shipbuilders;

v) A virement of £1,860,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (RfR3) to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision;

vi) A virement of £13,140,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (RfR3) to non-voted Launch Investment Receipts;

RfR2

i) A Virement of £1,300,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Research Councils to the Research Capital Investment Fund;

RfR3

i) A virement of £15,000 from non-voted to voted capital in relation to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills;

vii) A virement of £14,000,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to voted expenditure by the Skills Funding Agency;

viii) A virement of £5,000,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to voted expenditure by British Shipbuilders (RfR1);

ix) A virement of £1,860,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to the non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (RfR1);

x) A virement of £13,140,000 from non-voted expenditure by the Higher Education Funding Council for England to non-voted Launch Investment Receipts (RfR1).

TREASURY

Departmental Expenditure Limits (HM Revenue and Customs)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Subject to parliamentary approval of the supplementary estimate, the HM Revenue & Customs total DEL will be decreased by £500,000 from £3,706,842,000 to £3,706,342,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change			*New DEL*	*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	37,771	-38,271	3,311,284	425,976	3,737,260
Of which:					
Administration Budget[1]	37,771	-38,271	3,586,418	79,437	3,665,855
Capital	2,415	-2,415	211,549	-	211,549
Less Depreciation[2]	-	-	-242,467	-	-242,467
Total DEL	40,186	-40,686	3,280,366	425,976	3,706,342

[1] The total of 'Administration Budget' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

> A transfer of £500,000 administration costs to the Cabinet Office Security and Intelligence Agencies, as HMRC's share of funding Information Assurance Activities.
>
> The take up of £38,335,000 non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision as voted administration costs to facilitate improvements to key operational activities (DEL neutral).
>
> A decrease in voted DEL of £64,000 with respect to administration cash leasing costs under International Financial Reporting Standards, which transfer to non-voted DEL (DEL neutral).

The change in the administration budget arises from the specific administration items detailed in the resource element above.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

> The take up of £2,415,000 non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision as voted capital costs to facilitate improvements to key operational activities (DEL neutral).

Departmental Expenditure Limits (Resource)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the winter supplementary estimate, HM Treasury's Resource DEL will be decreased by £20,657,000 from £206,740,000 to £186,083,000. The Administration Budget will be decreased by £21,957,000 from £159,551,000 to £137,594,000. The impact on resources, including the administration budget, is set out in the following table:

	Change			*New DEL*	*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	-20,657,000	-	152,359,000	33,724,000	186,083,000
Of which:					
Administration Budget[1]	-21,957,000	-	126,485,000	11,109,000	137,594,000
Capital	-	-	45,3000,000	3,400,000	48,700,000
Less Depreciation[2]	-	-	-6,725,000	-	-6,725,000
Total DEL	-20,657,000	-	190,934,000	37,124,000	228,058,000

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net reductions in resource DEL of £20,657,000 and Administration Budget of £21,957,000 are the net effect of the transfer of responsibility for the Office of Government Commerce to the Cabinet Office following the Machinery of Government transfer announced on 15 June 2010.

Departmental Expenditure Limits (National Savings & Investments)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, National Savings and Investments (NS&I) departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £15,994,000 to £168,402,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change			*New DEL*	
£'000	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	15,994	-4,994	168,402	-	*168,402*
Of which:				-	
Administration Budget	15,994	-4,994	168,402	-	*168,402*
Near cash in RDEL	15,994	-4,994	164,769	-	*164,769*
Capital	-	-	464	-	*464*

£'000	*Change* *Voted*	*Change* *Non-voted*	*New DEL* *Voted*	*New DEL* *Non-voted*	*Total*
Less Depreciation[1]	-	-	-2,983	-	*-2,983*
Total DEL	15,994	-4,994	165,883	-	*165,883*

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL (£15,994,000) is required to continue the delivery of NS&I's adding value strategy for both the modernisation and simplification of infrastructure and products. To facilitate this, NS&I has included the following items in its winter supplementary estimate:

Resource DEL end year flexibility (£6.0 million),

DEL Reserve claim (£5.0 million),

Departmental Unallocated Provision (£4.994 million).

Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Bill (Ministerial Correction)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): On 15 November the Financial Secretary to the Treasury reported to Parliament on the operation of the UK's Counter-Terrorist Asset Freezing Regime for the period July to September 2010.

During the Second Reading of the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Bill, I responded to the right hon. Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz) about figures published in the report. My response appears on 15 November, *Official Report*, column 708.

The explanation I gave of the figures was incorrect. For the purpose of transparency and to ensure the report is correctly interpreted in the future I would like to clarify that explanation.

As of 30 September 2010, a total of 205 accounts containing just under £290,000 of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK.

Of that £290,000 approximately £140,000 was frozen under the UK's domestic terrorist asset freezing regime, which is mandated by UNSCR 1373 and implemented by the legislation which the Bill is intended to replace. The remaining £150,000 was frozen under the UN al-Qaeda and Taliban asset-freezing regime.

CABINET OFFICE

Directgov (Review)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I invited Martha Lane Fox, the Government's digital champion, to undertake a strategic review of Directgov which was completed on 14 October 2010. This supported the work that the Efficiency and Reform Board had undertaken on channel shift and the opportunity for digital channels to support delivery of the spending review. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury and I wrote to Departments in September outlining our commitment to improving services and driving efficiencies by making digital the default channel for Government information and transactional services.

Martha Lane Fox submitted her report "Directgov 2010 and beyond: revolution not evolution" to me in October. The report places Directgov in the context of how Government should use the internet both to communicate and interact better with citizens and to deliver significant efficiency savings from making digital the default delivery channel for Government information and services.

I have written to Martha Lane Fox today thanking her for her report and saying that I am minded to accept her proposals in full, but that I will need to consult colleagues before making any final decisions about how to take them forward. I have placed Martha Lane Fox's report and my response in the Library. Both documents are also available on the Cabinet Office website (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

I expect quick and broad agreement on some of Martha Lane Fox's proposals where we can make rapid progress and that in some areas—such as moving to a single domain for Government—I will have to work with Departments to test different approaches and work through the details and timescales. It is important to set a clear direction of travel and that is what I have done in my reply as the initial Government response to Martha Lane Fox's proposals.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): Subject to parliamentary approval of the winter supplementary estimate 2010-11, the Cabinet Office total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £229,588,000 from £329,499,000 to £559,087,000.

The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000	*Main Estimate DEL* *Voted*	*Main Estimate DEL* *Non-voted*	*Main Estimate DEL* *Total*	*Changes* *Voted*	*Changes* *Non-voted*	*Changes* *Total*	*Winter Supplementary Estimate New DEL* *Voted*	*Winter Supplementary Estimate New DEL* *Non-Voted*	*Winter Supplementary Estimate New DEL* *Total*
Resource DEL	259,942	49,196	309,138	+105,452	+100,985	+206,437	365,394	150,181	515,575
Of which:									
Administration Budget	*171,459*	*10,400*	*181,859*	*+53,858*	-	*+53,858*	*225,317*	*10,400*	*235,717*
Capital DEL[2]	45,887	2,000	47,887	+23,250	-	+23,250	69,137	2,000	71,137
Depreciation[1]	*-27,526*	-	*-27,526*	*-99*	-	*-99*	*-27,625*	-	*-27,625*
Total DEL	278,303	51,196	329,499	+128,603	+100,985	+229,588	406,906	152,181	559,087
AME									

---

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Summary of Changes in Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)

The change in the resource element of DEL is an increase of £206.437 million which comprises £163.636 million for x3 Machinery of Government transfers from other Government Departments, £47.303 million of agreed claims on the Reserve, £4.290 million budget covers transfers to other Government Departments and a reduction of £0.900 million for dividends receivable from Buying Solutions and an increase of £0.688 million for purchase of goods and services relating to the Office of Government Commerce, both excluded from the Machinery of Government transfer.

The change in the capital element of DEL is an increase of £23.250 million which comprises £21.750 million Capital DEL End Year Flexibility drawdown and a claim on the Reserve for £1.500 million.

Changes in Resource DEL (RDEL)

The changes which result in a net increase in Resource DEL (RDEL) of £206,437,000 are as follows:

Agreed Claims on the Reserve £47,303,000

A Claim on the Reserve for Grassroots Grants increases Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £18,000,000.

A Claim on the Reserve for v Match Funding increases Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £8,828,000.

A Claim on the Reserve from the Modernisation Fund to cover estate rationalisation and early departures increases Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £10,475,000.

A Claim on the Reserve from the Transition Fund to support civil society organisations in adapting to a changing funding environment increases Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £10,000,000.

Machinery of Government Transfers £163,636,000

The transfer of Directgov from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to the Cabinet Office increases Resource DEL and Net Resource Requirement by £28,985,000 and Net Cash Requirement by £28,886,000.

The transfer of the Office of Government Commerce and its executive agency, Buying Solutions, from HM Treasury to the Cabinet Office increases Resource DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £20,657,000, increases Resource AME by £529,000 and increases Net Resource Requirement by £21,186,000.

The transfer of responsibility for political and constitutional reform from the Ministry of Justice to the Cabinet Office increases voted Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £11,794,000. A transfer relating to the costs of the general election 2010 increases non-voted Resource DEL by £102,200,000.

Other changes outside Machinery of Government transfer £212,000

Dividends receivable from Buying Solutions of £900,000 and an increase of £688,000 for purchase of goods and services relating to the Office of Government Commerce. These adjustments are in addition to the Machinery of Government transfer. These changes decrease Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £212,000.

Budget Cover Transfers to other Government Departments £4,290,000

A budgetary cover transfer from the Office for Civil Society to the Department for Communities and Local Government to cover the costs of the Government Office Network reduces Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £290,000.

A budgetary cover transfer to the Security and Intelligence Agencies (SIA) for Information Assurance reduces Resource DEL, Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement by £4,000,000.

Transfer from non-voted to voted within Resource DEL

A switch within Resource DEL of £1,700,000 from non-voted to voted programme reflects savings made by executive NDPBs and reduces the Grant-in-Aid to eNDPBs and their non-voted expenditure and increases Office for Civil Society voted grants. The impact on Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement and Resource DEL is neutral.

Other neutral adjustments within Resource DEL

A switch within RDEL from administration to programme to cover costs of additional programme expenditure of £14,000,000.

A switch from Office for Civil Society resource grants to core Cabinet Office programme expenditure to re-profile the budget cuts reflected in the main estimate 2010-11 of £11,000,000.

Programme income has been reduced by £29,000,000 offset by a reduction in expenditure due to various programmes coming to an end.

An increase in administration income by £4,800,000 offset by administration expenditure on wages and salaries relating to the Office of Government Commerce; this adjustment is in addition to the Machinery of Government transfer.

A virement of £485,000 from independent offices—Civil Service Commissioners administration expenditure to the newly created executive non-departmental public body—Civil Service Commission—programme expenditure. The impact on Net Resource and Net Cash Requirement and Resource DEL is neutral. Non-Budget expenditure outside DEL has increased by £485,000.

A virement of £126,000 from independent offices—Civil Service Commissioners administration expenditure to core Cabinet Office. The impact on Net Resource Requirement, Net Cash Requirement and Resource DEL is neutral.

Changes in Capital DEL (COED

The changes which result in a net increase in Capital DEL (CDEL) of £23,250,000 are as follows:

End Year Flexibility / Claim on the Reserve

A drawdown to cover capital grants programmes run by the Office for Civil Society (OCS) increases Capital DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £21,750,000.

A drawdown on the Reserve from the Modernisation Fund to cover the costs of estate rationalisation increases Capital DEL and Net Cash Requirement by £1,500,000.

Neutral adjustment within Capital DEL

A switch within Capital DEL from Office for Civil Society capital grants to core Cabinet Office non-current assets to re-profile the budget cuts reflected in the main estimate 2010-11 has a neutral impact on Capital DEL and Net Cash Requirement, whereas Net Resource Requirement decreases by £2,500,000 and Net Voted Capital increases by the same amount.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): Subject to Parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Communities and Local Government's departmental expenditure limits for 2010-11 will change as follows:

Section 1: Main Programmes DEL

1. The Department for Communities and Local Government's Main DEL will be decreased by £83,471,000 from £9,937,138,000 to £9,853,667,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £290,000 from £261,722,000 to £262,012,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

					(£'000)
	Change				*NEW DEL*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-8,156	-35,317	3,337,329	438,354	3,775,683
Of which					
Administration budget	*290*		*260,334*	*1,678*	*262,012*
Capital[1]	-12,005	-58,024	1,305,153	4,816,782	6,121,935
Depreciation[2]	0	30,031	-38,488	-5,463	-43,951
Total	-20,161	-63,310	4,603,994	5,249,673	9,853,667

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting

2. The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

2.1 An internal transfer of £2,158,000 to Request for Resources 1 (main DEL) from Request for Resources 2 (Local Government DEL) made up from £1,625,000 to the strategic research budget (main DEL) and £533,000 to DCLG's communication budget (main DEL). Both of these changes are to enable more effective management of the budgets.

2.2 An increase in main DEL of £700,000 in respect of Infrastructure UK. This is a technical correction.

2.3 A surrender of £46,191,000 programme expenditure to HM Treasury made up of £16,160,000 internal savings and £30,031,000 to reflect technical changes under the clear line of sight project (CLOS) which were overlooked when CLOS was first set up.

2.4 A net transfer of £140,000 to other Government Departments, made up of:

Amount (£)	*Department*	*Reason*
Transfers in (Programme total £8,300,000, Administration total £290,000)		
£1,980,000	Culture Media and Sport	Contributions to the Migration Impact Fund
£4,340,000	Home Office	
£1,980,000	Health	
£290,000	Cabinet Office	Transfer of work on Community Cohesion
Transfers out (Programme total £8,730,000)		
£2,500,000	Energy and Climate Change	Local Carbon Frameworks
£4,280,000	Business Innovation and Skills	Migration Impact Fund
£100,000	Cabinet Office	Cross Government funding of Information Assurance capabilities.
£1,850,000	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Papal visit

2.5 a net increase in receipts of £23,837,000. This is made up of increases in provision of:

£100,000 for the dividend payment from the Fire Service College;

£7,020,000 in respect of Firelink projects in Scotland and Wales;

£5,160,000 increase in dividend receipts for Ordnance Survey;

£1,883,000 for staff on loan to the Homes and Communities Agency and outward secondment (administration budget);

£21,833,000 administration for Government Office programmes (administration budget);

offset by decreases in provision of:

£159,000 decrease in dividends for Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

£12,000,000 to reflect reduced income from sub-tenants following departure from Ashdown House (administration budget).

2.6 a net transfer of £3,336,000 programme provision from non-voted to voted made up as follows:

from voted to non-voted provision

£2,316,000 was surrendered to the departmental unallocated provision (DUP) in respect of savings identified in the review of Pilots projects;

£2,100,000 of departmental receipts to the Homes and Communities Agency to fund additional pension costs. The additional funding is required to meet liabilities which had not been fully costed when the body was first set up;

£100,000 from fire and rescue services improvement programme (a dividend payment from the Fire Service College) is being transferred to DUP;

from non-voted to voted provision

£1,500,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency Growth due to withdrawal of funding in support of eco-towns.

£6,352,000 from DUP to help restore the European regional development fund (ERDF) liability budget to its original total. (The budget was reduced by £17.1 million at main estimates as a temporary measure while the budgets to deliver administrative savings which contributed to the £6.2 billion savings were identified.

2.7 The changes described at paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 above have a net nil effect on the departmental expenditure limit:

2.8 The change in the administration budget arises from the transfer of £290,000 from the Cabinet Office—see above table at 2.4.

3. The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from:

3.1 a surrender of £70,029,000 programme expenditure to HM Treasury made up of:

£14,629,000 internal savings; and

£55,400,000 as the borrowing element in respect of local authority new build programmes.

3.2 an increase in receipts of £19,500,000 for capital pooled housing receipts offsetting increases in provision of £5,189,000 for the Olympics programme; £13,277,000 for Control Room, £950,000 for Thames Gateway and £84,000 for renewing neighbourhood programme.

3.3 a net transfer of £2,624,000 from non-voted to voted made up of:

from voted to non-voted provision

£2,340,000 to the community infrastructure fund to support the Dearne Valley transport project to be delivered by Barnsley metropolitan borough council;

£950,000 to Thames Gateway to enable the London Urban Development Council to meet pressures on the additional compulsory purchase order valuation.

from non-voted to voted provision

A surplus on local authority supported capital expenditure (LASCE) of £5,914,000 is being moved to private sector renewal to restore an earlier reduction in their 2010-11 allocation.

3.4 The changes described at paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 above have a net nil effect on the departmental expenditure limit:

Section 2: Local Government DEL

4. The Department for Communities and Local Government's local government DEL will be decreased by £2,374,000 from £25,992,569,000 to £25,990,195,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

(£'000)

	Change		*NEW DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-2,158	-182	25,863,046	115,353	25,978,399
Capital[1]	0	182	12,470	582	13,052
Depreciation[2]	*0*	*-216*	0	-1,256	-1,256
Total	-2,158	-216	25,875,516	114,679	25,990,195

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

5. The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

the transfer of £2,158,000 from Request for Resources 2 (local government DEL) to Request for Resources 1 (main DEL) described at paragraph 2.1 above

a switch of £182,000 from resource to capital. Local Government Standards Board's capital allocation was taken out in the last budget reduction. It was necessary to transfer this fund from resource to capital to cover the spending to date.

6. The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from

the switch of £182,000 to Capital from Resource for Local Government Standards Board described above.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): Subject to parliamentary approval, the Department for Culture Media and Sport's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £39,700,000 from £1,957,263,000 to £1,996,963,000 and the administration budget will increase by £7,200,000 from £44,288,000 to £51,488,000. Within the DEL change the impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	4,396	5,244	90,863	1,460,220	1,551,083
Of which:					
Administration budget	7,200	-	51,488	-	51,488
Capital[1]	11,901	18,159	-643,406	1,217,392	573,986
Less Depreciation[2]	-	-	-7,500	-120,606	-128,106
Total	16,297	23,403	-560,043	2,557,006	1,996,963

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the Resource element of the DEL arises from:

Take up of £9,700,000 End Year flexibility comprising: (£4,000,000) UK Film; (£2,000,000) Museums and Galleries; and £3,700,000 Administration budget, and a transfer of £60,000 from Resource to Capital DEL for the Poetry Archive

The administration budget has increased by £7,200,000 from £44,288,000 to £51,488,000. This is as a result of take up of £3,700,000 Administration End Year Flexibility and an agreed transfer of £3,500,000 from programme to administration costs.

The Capital element of the DEL has increased by £30,060,000 as a result of:

The drawdown of £30,000,000 End Year Flexibility (EYF) to meet agreed spending plans and a transfer of £60,000 to Capital from Resource DEL for the Poetry Archive.

DEFENCE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Defence departmental expenditure limits (DEL) will be increased by £102,744,000 (Voted and Non Voted) from £37,219,510,000 to £37,322,254,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£000s*
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	102,744	-	35,454,550	603,460	36,058,010
Of which: Administration Budget	-	-	*2,182,586*	-	*2,182,586*
Capital	-	-	10,070,208	851	10,071,059
Depreciation[1]	-	-	-8,797,259	-9,556	-8,806,815
Total	102,744	-	36,727,499	594,755	37,322,254

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

Voted Resource DEL increase £102,744,000:

RfR1:

(1) An increase of £88,000,000 in Resource DEL to bring it into line with the audited outturn for 2009-10, updating the provisional adjustment made at main estimate, as agreed with the Treasury from the reserve.

(2) To increase the net non budget grant funding of £1,289,000 by reducing Resource DEL by £28,000 for the Council of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, £600,000 for the National Army Museum, £871,000 for the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and £315,000 for the Cadets and Sea Scouts Association; and, increasing Resource DEL by reducing the Royal Navy National Museum non budget grant of £525,000.

RfR2:

(1) A transfer in of £16,033,000 from the Department for International Development being their contribution to the conflict pool.

The changes to Resource DEL and Capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £104,033,000.

EDUCATION

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Education (DfE) departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £580,339,000 from £57,318,757,000 to £57,899,096,000; the administration cost budget will increase by £1,500,000 from £180,503,000 to £182,003,000. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) which has a separate Estimate and DEL, will remain at £190,196,000 with the administration cost budget remaining at £27,337,000. The Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation (OFQUAL) which has a separate Estimate and DEL, will remain at £23,400,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

DfE				*Resources*				*Capital*[2]
	Change	*New DEL*		*Of which:*	*Change*	*New DEL*		*Of which:*
			Voted	*Non-voted*			*Voted*	*Non-voted*
	£'000	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*
RfR1	623,339	49,683,740	41,290,026	8,393,714	-43,000	6,297,547	242,474	6,055,073
RfR2	0	1,602,784	1,602,784	0	0	315,025	315,025	0
DfE Total	*623,339*	*51,286,524*	*42,892,810*	*8,393,714*	*-43,000*	*6,612,572*	*557,499*	*6,055,073*
OFSTED	0	190,196	185,852	4,344	0	0	0	0
OFQUAL	0	17,900	17,300	600	0	5,500	5,500	0
Sub Total	*623,339*	*51,494,620*	*43,095,962*	*8,398,658*	*-43,000*	*6,618,072*	*562,999*	*6,055,073*
Of which Admin Budget	1,500	209,340	204,872	4,468	0	0	0	0
Depreciation1[1]	-1,500	-17,137	-14,107	-3,030	0	0	0	0
Total	*621,839*	*51,477,483*	*43,081,855*	*8,395,628*	*-43 000*	*6,618,072*	*562,999*	*6,055,073*

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Department for Education

Resource DEL

The increase in the resource element of the DEL of £623,339,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL of £9,089,000 and an increase of £632,428,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL, mainly in the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Voted Resource DEL

The £9,089,000 decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

RFR1

A transfer from the Department for Work and Pensions for £4,183,000 in respect of their agreed share of the costs associated with the Child Poverty Innovation fund.

A transfer from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £20,000,000 in respect of Higher Discretionary Support for 19 to 24 year olds.

A Machinery of Government transfer to the Ministry of Justice of £43,811,000 in respect of the Joint Youth Justice Unit. This was a joint project between the Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice. Responsibility for this has been moved entirely to the Ministry of Justice.

A transfer to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of £1,850,000 to cover the Departments' contribution to the educational objective of the jointly funded Papal Visit.

A transfer from Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of £1,990,000 in respect of National Vocational Qualifications income received by QCDA that fund UK Commission for Employment and Skills expenditure.

A transfer to the Department for Communities and Local Government of £1,980,000 for the Migration Impact Fund.

A transfer to the Scottish Government of £213,000 for Child Trust Funds top ups.

A switch of £33,000,000 from Capital Grants to Resource spending for Schools and Teachers to re-profile budgets affected as part of the Department's 2010 Emergency Budget savings of £670 million.

Take up of Departmental End Year Flexibility of £606,000,000 to increase provision for Sixth Forms delivered through the Young People's Learning Agency.

A movement of £626,928,000 to non-voted resource DEL to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

A movement of £4,500,000 from Non Voted spending to re-profile provision usage no longer required and relieve pressures on the depreciation budgets caused by the recent Clear Line of Sight adjustments.

Non-voted resource DEL

The £632,428,000 increase in Non-voted resource DEL arises from:

RFR1

A movement of £10,000,000 from non-voted Capital switched to resource to re-profile budgets affected as part of the Department's 2010 Emergency Budget savings of £670 million.

A movement of £626,928,000 from voted resource to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

A movement of £4,500,000 from non-voted resource DEL to support the Department's Administration expenditure.

Capital DEL

The decrease in the capital element of the DEL of £43,000,000 arises from a decrease in the non-voted element of capital DEL.

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £43,000,000 decrease in the non-voted element of capital DEL arises from:

A switch of £43,000,000 from non-voted capital into voted and non-voted resource

to re-profile budgets affected as part of the Department's 2010 Emergency Budget savings of £670 million.

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

There has been no change in overall DEL limits within the winter supplementary.

Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulation

There has been no change in overall DEL limits within the winter supplementary.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department of Energy and Climate Change departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will increase by £650,000 from £3,111,948,000 to £3,112,598,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	943,776	-924,801	407,198	810,364	1,217,562
Of which:					
Administration Budget	-	-	108,084	-	108,084
Capital DEL[1]	3,262	-21,587	725,519	,178,182	1,903,701
Less Depreciation[2]	-	-	-2,987	-5,678	-8,665
Total DEL	947,038	-946,388	1,129,730	1,982,868	3,112,598

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL in the table above, since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource DEL

The increase in the Resource element of the DEL of £18,975,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of Resource DEL of £943,776,000 offset by a decrease of £924,801,000 in the non-voted element of Resource DEL.

Voted Resource DEL

The £943,776,000 increase in the voted element of Resource DEL arises from:

A decrease of £923,000,000 in Nuclear Decommissioning Authority operating appropriations-in-aid.

A transfer from non-voted Capital DEL of £18,325,000, reflecting the revision of the Capital/Resource split of the £85 million DECC contribution to the £6.2 billion savings announced on 24 May 2010.

A transfer from non-voted Resource DEL of £1,801,000.

A transfer from the Department for Communities and Local Government of £2,500,000 for Low-Carbon Framework pilot programmes.

A transfer to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of £1,850,000 towards the costs of the Papal visit.

Non-voted Resource DEL

The £924,801,000 decrease in non-voted Resource DEL arises from:

A decrease of £923,000,000 in Nuclear Decommissioning Authority DEL reflecting the revised scoring of their income as non-voted in DEL terms, offsetting the reduction in appropriations-in-aid.

A transfer to voted Resource DEL of £1,801,000.

Capital DEL

The decrease in the Capital element of the DEL of £18,325,000 arises from an increase in the voted element of Capital DEL of £3,262,000 and a decrease of £21,587,000 in the non-voted element of Capital DEL.

Voted Capital DEL

The £3,262,000 increase in the voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

A transfer from non-voted Capital DEL of £3,262,000.

Non-voted Capital DEL

The £21,587,000 decrease in the non-voted element of Capital DEL arises from:

A transfer to voted Capital DEL of £3,262,000.

A transfer to voted Resource DEL of £18,325,000, reflecting the revision of the Capital/Resource split of the £85 million DECC contribution to the £6.2 billion savings announced on 24 May 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be reduced by £218,000 (0.01%) from £2,417,291,000 to £2,417,073,000. The Administration Budget will be reduced by £662,000 (0.23%) from £282,750,000 to £282,088,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

	£'000					
	Change			*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	12,345	-12,563	-218	3,707,615	-1,290,542	2,417,073
Of which:						
Administration Budget	-662	-	-662	282,088	-	282,088
Capital	-17,763	17,763	-	123,127	424,587	547,714
Depreciation[1]	325	-325	-	-100,441	-109,235	-209,676
Total	-5,093	4,875	-218	3,730,301	-975,190	2,755,111

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL of -£218,000 arises from:

(i) a transfer of £1,850,000 administration to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the Papal visit; (ii) a transfer of £1,188,000 administration and £544,000 programme to DEFRA from the Food Standards Agency for the Machinery of Government Change reflecting a permanent transfer of function to DEFRA covering elements of food labelling and food composition policy; and (iii) a transfer of £100,000 programme to the Scottish Executive to fund Marine Protected Areas.

There has also been a transfer within the resource element of the DEL of £12,563,000 from non-voted to voted: (i) £9,447,000 relating to budget transfers from the core Department (voted) to the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies (non-voted), mainly the Environment Agency, the Joint Nature and Conservation Committee and Natural England; and (ii) £22,010,000 relates to increases in income and expenditure for the Rural Development Programme for England. This change is DEL neutral, but the expenditure is classed as voted, whereas the income is classed as non-voted consolidated fund extra receipts.

There is no change in the depreciation budget. There has however been a transfer of £325,000 from voted to non-voted relating to a transfer of budget to the Marine Management Organisation.

There is no change in the capital element of the DEL. There has however been a transfer within the capital element of the DEL of £17,763,000 from voted to non-voted relating to budget transfers from the core Department (voted) to the Department's Non Departmental Public Bodies (non-voted), mainly the Environment Agency.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £95,878,000 from £2,127,148,000 to £2,223,026,000. The administration budget will be increased by £64,250,000 from £420,448,000 to £484,698,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change £'000		*New DEL £'000*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	138,143	-17,000	2,124,381	29,000	2,153,381
Of which:					
Administration budget	81,250	-17,000	468,068	16,630	484,698
Capital[1]	-25,265	-	168,695	-	168,695
Depreciation[2]	-	-	-99,050	-	-99,050
Total	112,878	-17,,000	2,194,026	29,000	2,223,026

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

Request for Resources 1

Administration

I. Take up of £15,000,000 Administration EYF in respect of modernisation of the core FCO.

II. A claim on the Reserve of £15,000,000 Administration costs in respect of Corporate Services modernisation.

III. Transfer of £1,850,000 administration from the Department for Education in respect of the Papal visit.

IV. Transfer of £1,850,000 administration from the Department for International Development in respect of the Papal visit.

V. Transfer of £1,850,000 administration from the Department of Energy and Climate Change in respect of the Papal visit.

VI. Transfer of £1,850,000 administration from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of the Papal visit.

VII. Transfer of £1,850,000 administration from the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the Papal visit.

VIII. Transfer of £180,000 administration from the Department for International Development in respect of the gratis visa operation in Chernobyl.

IX. Capital to Administration switch of £25,000,000 in respect of exchange rate pressures.

Programme

I. Transfer of £100,000 programme from the Department for International Development in respect of the Strategic and Bilateral fund work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

II. Transfer of £40,000,000 programme from the Department for International Development in respect of support for British Council Official Development Assistance (ODA).

III. Transfer of £200,000 programme from the Department of International Development in respect of Tanzania Police Training Project.

Capital

I. Capital to administration switch of £25,000,000 in respect of exchange rate pressures.

II. Capital transfer of £265,000 from FCO to DFID as a contribution towards building a new office in Juba, Sudan.

Request for Resources 2

Programme

I. Transfer of £16,467,000 grants from DFID in respect of conflict prevention and discretionary Peacekeeping funds.

II. Transfer of £54,000 grants to the Security Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

HEALTH

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): Subject to the necessary supplementary estimates, the Department of Health's element of the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will increase by £20,860,000 from £106,260,372,000 to £106,281,232,000 the Administration Cost Limit has increased by £4,201,000 from £211,079,000 to £215,280,000. The Food Standards Agency DEL decreases by £16,059,000 from £130,989,000 to £114,930,000. The Administration Cost Limit will reduce by £5,389,000 from £56,299,000 to £50,910,000. The overall DEL including the Food Standards Agency will increase by £4,801,000 from £106,391,361,000 to £106,396,162,000. The impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		New DEL		
Department of Health	*Voted £m*	*Non-voted £m*	*Voted £m*	*Non-voted £m*	*Total £m*
Resource DEL, of which	467.860	-447.000	101,141.041	243.339	101,384.380
Administration Budget	*4.201*	-	*210.280*	*5.000*	*215.280*
Capital DEL[1]	-	0	2,150.189	2,746.663	4,896.852
Total Department of Health DEL	467.860	-447.000	103,291.230	2,990.002	106,281.232
Depreciation[2]	-	-	-1,119.419	0	-1,119.419
Total Department of Health spending (after adjustment)	467.860	-447.000	102,171.811	2,990.002	105,161.813
Food Standards Agency					
Resource DEL, of which	-16.059	-	114.329	-	114.329
Administration Budget	*-5.389*	-	*50.910*	-	*50.910*
Capital DEL[1]	-	-	0.601	-	0.601
Total Food Standards Agency DEL	-16.059		114.930	-	114.930
Depreciation[2]	-	-	-1.861	-	-1.861
Total Food Standards Agency spending (after adjustment)	-16.059	-	113.069	-	113.069

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Department of Health DEL has increased by £20,860,000 made up of:

an increase of £14,327,000 (£4,201,000 administration costs) as a result of a Machinery of Government change with nutrition policy moving from the Food Standards Agency;

a transfer of £10,513,000 from the Ministry of Justice mainly for prison healthcare services;

a transfer of -£2,000,000 to the Cabinet Office as the Department's share of a contribution to information assurance strategy; and

a transfer of -£1,980,000 to the Department of Communities and Local Government towards the migrant impact fund.

The Department of Health's administration cost limit has increased as a result of the Machinery of Government change detailed above.

The change of £16,059,000 to the Food Standards Agency element of the DEL is due to:

a reduction in DEL of £14,327,000 (£4,201,000 administration costs) for the transfer of nutrition responsibilities to the

Department of Health. It was announced on the 20 July the Department of Health would become responsible for nutrition policy in England; and

a reduction in DEL of £1,732,000 (£1,188,000 administration costs) for the transfer of labelling responsibilities. It was announced on the 20 July that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will become responsible for country of origin labelling and various other types of labelling not related to food safety, and food composition policies in England.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for International Development's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be reduced by £74,465,000 from £7,618,569,000 to £7,544,104,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£'000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	6,642	-81,372	5,023,211	985,628	6,008,839
Of which:					
Administration budget	-	-	154,644	3,000	157,644
Capital DEL [1]	203,001	-202,736	1,737,001	-180,736	1,556,265
Less Depreciation [2]	-	-	-21,000	-	-21,000
Total DEL	209,643	-284,108	6,739,212	804,892	7,544,104

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and Accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of the resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of these assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the Resource element of DEL arises from:

Non-voted

Transfers out to other Government Departments -£74,730,000:

-£40,000,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of support for British Council Official Development Assistance (ODA).

-£16,467,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the conflict prevention pool.

-£16,033,000 transferred to the Ministry of Defence in respect of the conflict prevention pool.

-£1,850,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the papal visit.

-£200,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of police training in Tanzania.

-£180,000 transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of visas for Chernobyl victims.

Use of Departmental Unallocated Provision	-£6,642,000
Subtotal non voted	*-£81,372,000*
Voted	
Use of Departmental Unallocated Provision	£6,642,000
Subtotal voted	*£6,642,000*
Total reductions in RDEL	*-£74,730,000*

The change in the Capital element of DEL arises from:

Non-voted

Transfers in from other Government Departments £265,000

£265,000 transferred from Foreign and Commonwealth Office in respect of the new Juba office build.

Income from Global Trade Liquidity loan to be paid into the Consolidated Fund (CFER) since it exceeds voted capital expenditure -£200,000,000

Use of Departmental Unallocated Provision	-£3,001,000
Subtotal non-voted	*-£202,736,000*
Voted	
IDA replenishment on resource side of the Estimate	£200,000,000
Use of Departmental Unallocated Provision	£3,001,000
Subtotal voted	*£203,001,000*
Total increases in CDEL	*£265,000*

JUSTICE

Serious Further Offence Review (Jon Venables)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Following the recall to custody and subsequent conviction of Jon Venables for the possession of indecent images of children, I commissioned Sir David Omand GCB to undertake an independent review of the post-release period of the case, covering Jon Venables' supervision from release on life licence in June 2001 until 24 February 2010, when he was recalled to custody.

The review has encompassed the general principles of a serious further offence (SFO) review but has also considered the wider lessons to be learnt for the future management of this and similar cases.

The terms of reference of the review were:

> to review the supervision of the subject, from his release on life licence until his recall to custody, in order to establish whether he was effectively supervised, having regard to national standards and guidance and to the particular circumstances/challenges of his case;
>
> in doing so, to consider the actions of his offender managers, their supervisors, the local police, the local MAPPA meetings and the role of the National Management Board; and
>
> to establish whether everything was done which might reasonably have been expected of all agencies involved in supervising the subject to monitor his compliance with his licence conditions and to assess and manage any risk of harm which he presented.

Sir David Omand has completed the review and submitted his report to me.

I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a copy of his report, which has been redacted in a few places to comply with the terms of the injunction amended in the High Court on 23 July 2010 (commonly known as the Butler-Sloss injunction), to take account of data protection and other confidentiality laws and to protect very sensitive operational policing information.

Sir David has concluded that Jon Venables was effectively and properly supervised at an appropriate level and frequency of contact, having regard to the particular circumstances of his case. Sir David also concludes that no reasonable supervisory regime would have been expected to detect his use of the computer to download indecent images.

I have accepted the review's recommendations, which will be taken forward by officials in the National Offender Management Service. Officials will provide me with an update on the implementation of the recommendations in due course.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): Subject to parliamentary approval the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be taking a 2010-11 winter supplementary estimate. The effect this will have is to decrease the NIO's Total DEL (excluding depreciation) by £1,169,047,000 from £1,203,205,000 to £34,158,000.

	Change		*New DEL*		
£'000	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	(293,444)	(869,832)	34,174	1,702	35,876
Admin Budget	*(51,813)*		*16,751*	-	*16,751*
Capital	(35,387)	(36,076)	440	-	440
Depreciation	24,797	40,895	(2,100)	(58)	(2,158)
Total (excl. depreciation)	(304,034)	(865,013)	32,514	1,644	34,158

The change in total DEL of £1,169,047,000 relates to the devolution of policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Executive on 12 April 2010.

NI Consolidated Fund—Request for Resources (RfR) 2

The Northern Ireland Executive DEL is increased by £1,310,609,000 from

£9,515,937,000 to £10,826,546,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

	Change £000	*New DEL £000*
Resource DEL	1,307,846	9,931,705
Capital DEL	80,263	1,222,906
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	1,388,109	11,154,611
Less Depreciation	77,500	328,065
Total DEL net of depreciation	1,310,609	10,826,546

This increase takes account of the Machinery of Government change that devolved policing and justice from the Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Courts Service to the Northern Ireland Executive on 12 April 2010.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimates, the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for Scottish Government will be increased by £302,413,000 from £28,401,374,000 to £28,703,787,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*	*New DEL*
Resource DEL	158,993	25,857,454
Of which:		
Non Ring-Fenced	125,993	25,243,842
Capital DEL	149,621	3,388,567
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	308,614	29,246,021
Less Depreciation	6,201	542,234
Total DEL	302,413	28,703,787

DEL provision for the Scotland Office will remain unchanged.

The increase in the Scotland DEL takes account of the following adjustments to the Scottish Government provision:

the take-up of end-year flexibility (EYF) by the Scottish Government amounting

to £302,621,000 (including £6,201,000 for depreciation and impairments);

Clear Line Of Sight classification changes—student loans of £4,500,000.

The DEL increase also includes the following changes:

a transfer of £1,180,000 from the Home Office in respect of the migration impact fund;

a transfer of £100,000 from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to Marine Scotland in respect of marine protected areas;

a transfer of £213,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in

respect of the Child Trust Fund.

ANNEX A

CHANGES TO DEL

Scotland Office DEL

1. The Scotland Office DEL will remain unchanged.

Scotland DEL

1. Take-up of EYF by the Scottish Government of £302,621,000 (£153,000,000 near cash, £33,000,000 non-cash and £149,621,000 capital);

2. Clear Line Of Sight classification changes amounting to £4,500,000; and

3. Other transfers of £1,493,000 as follows:

a transfer of £1,180,000 from the Home Office in respect of the migration impact fund;

a transfer of £100,000 from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to Marine Scotland in respect of marine protected areas;

a transfer of £213,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in respect of the child trust fund.

4. In addition, provision for depreciation increases by £6,201,000.

5. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

£'000	*Change*	*New DEL*
Resource DEL	158,993	25,857,454
Of which:		
Non Ring-Fenced	125,993	25,243,842
Capital DEL	149,621	3,388,567

£'000	*Change*	*New DEL*
Resource DEL + Capital DEL	308,614	29,246,021
Less Depreciation/Impairments	6,201	542,234
Total DEL	302,413	28,703,787

CHANGES TO AME

1. An increase in provision of £2,686,000 for NHS pensions (Scotland);

2. An increase in provision of £40,293,000 for teachers pensions (Scotland);

3. An increase in provision of £20,000,000 for NHS impairments;

4. A reduction in provision of £5,258,000 for student loans; and

5. A reduction in provision of £4,500,000 for Clear Line Of Sight classification changes—student loans.

CHANGES TO NON BUDGET

1. A reduction of £177,737,000 for changes in cash to accrual adjustments.

There is an increase in the grant payable to the Scottish Consolidated Fund of £539,572,000 from £26,609,096,000 to £27,148,668,000.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Work and Pensions Resource departmental expenditure limit will decrease by £35,781,000 to £8,730,218,000 and the Capital departmental expenditure limit will remain unchanged at £243,052,000. The Administration budget will decrease by £31,185,000 to £6,076,705,000.

	Change (£'000)			*New DEL (£'000)*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Total*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource	-58,183	22,402	-35,781	5,599,225	3,130,993	8,730,218
of which:						
Administration	-31,185	0	-31,185	4,543,556	1,533,149	6,076,705
Capital	18,496	-18,496	0	191,224	51,828	243,052
Depreciation[1]	919	-1,018	-99	-254,880	-834	-255,714
Total DEL	-40,606	4,924	-35,682	5,535,569	3,181,987	8,717,556

[1] Depreciation, which forms part of the resource Departmental Expenditure Limit, is excluded from the total Departmental Expenditure Limit since the capital Departmental Expenditure Limit includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of the departmental expenditure limit arises from:

Movements in Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 2

i. A budget transfer of £4,183,000 to the Department for Education to meet the Department's agreed share of the costs associated with the Child Poverty Innovation fund for 2010-11.

ii. A budget transfer of £413,000 to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for Regional Development Agency payments in relation to the School Gates project.

Request for Resources 3

iii. A budget transfer of £1,200,000 to the Paydays and Periodicity for Pension benefits. Small up-front cost of £ 1.2 million required to be transferred to Non-voted AME.

iv. A transfer from Request for Resources 5 of £1,000,000 to cover the costs of Information Assurance for 2010-11.

v. A budget transfer of £1,000,000 to the Cabinet Office for the Department's contribution to Information Assurance for 2010-11.

Request for Resources 5

vi. A Machinery of Government change of £28,985,000 to the Cabinet Office. This is to bring together and consolidate in the Cabinet Office all the various strands of work on transparency, open data, Government websites and digital engagement.

vii. A transfer to Request for Resources 3 of £1,000,000 to cover the costs of Information Assurance for 2010-11.

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure[1]

viii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £16,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £16,000 relating to decreased spend of the Independent Living Fund.

ix. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £14,495,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £14,495,000 relating to decreased spend of the Pensions Regulator.

x. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £226,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £226,000 relating to decreased spend of the Pensions Advisory Service.

xi. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £75,000 offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £75,000 relating to decreased spend of the Office of the Pensions Ombudsman.

xii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £37,214,000 offset by an increase in voted income of £37,214,000 relating to the increase of income for administering National Insurance Benefits.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The net nil movement in the capital element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

xiii. A decrease in non-voted capital expenditure of £18,508,000 offset by an increase in voted capital expenditure of £18,508,000 relating to decreased spend of the Pensions Regulator.

xiv. An increase in non-voted capital expenditure of £12,000 offset by an decrease in voted capital expenditure of £12,000 relating to increased spend of the Pensions Advisory Service.

Administration Costs

The movement in the Administration Cost limit arises from the changes to the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit as noted in items iii to vii.

Active at 60 (Community Agents)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Today, I am pleased to announce that the Government are providing £1 million to help older people keep active and make the most of their later lives. This money is available for local community groups or organisations within 30 selected areas[1] to bid for small grants of between £250 and £3,000.

Each local community group within the selected areas will recruit at least one Active at 60 Community Agent who will volunteer their time to help motivate, encourage and organise people within their own communities to become more active, physically, socially and mentally. Active at 60 Community Agents will be from the communities they are helping, and will have the flexibility to design innovative ways of encouraging and inspiring activity to help improve people's later lives.

Through the Active at 60 Community Agent initiative those people who are more at risk of social isolation in their later lives will be supported in becoming more active, independent and positively engaged with society. Active at 60 Community Agents will help people within their communities:

- take the first step in trying something new
- understand the benefits they can get from being more active, engaged and contributing to their communities
- build social contacts to help make being active part of their routine

This project is part of the Government's ambition to build a big society in which power is transferred from Whitehall to local communities, and organisations and voluntary groups play a far greater role in their community.

Work Capability Assessment

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Government are pleased to announce the publication of Professor Malcolm Harrington's independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). This is a substantial and thorough review of the WCA which the Government fully endorse. Alongside the review, the Government are publishing their response which sets out how we will implement the review's recommendations.

A central part of the Government's plans to reform the welfare state involves action to tackle incapacity benefit dependency. More than 2.2 million people in Britain today are on incapacity benefits and many have been abandoned, with little or no contact from the welfare state for as long as a decade or more.

Through the WCA we seek to change this, and to try to find a better way forward for those people. From April 2011 we will put 1.6 million people, all of those on incapacity benefits who are not close to retirement, through an independent medical assessment, the WCA. Those found fit for work or with the potential to return to work will be given support to help them do so, those who are deemed unable to work will continue to receive full support.

We believe that the principles of the WCA are right but we are clear that the process of assessment must be fair and honest about people's potential. We do not wish to see people who are genuinely unable to work put in a position where they are expected to do so.

Professor Harrington's review sets out how we can refine the system and significantly improve the process so that it continues to be fit for purpose. We intend to implement these changes as quickly as possible. Many will be put in place in time for the first assessments from the national migration in April 2011.

We will continue to review the WCA and to make further changes where necessary. We have invited Professor Harrington to continue in his current role as independent reviewer for another year and to make further recommendations to us as appropriate.

Copies of both documents are available in the Vote Office.

---

[1] The following areas have been selected on the basis of level of deprivation and age structure, while ensuring a broad split across the English regions, encompassing both rural and urban areas:

Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Hackney, Sandwell, Kingston Upon Hull, Nottingham, Bournemouth, Southend-on-Sea, Brighton and Hove, Redcar and Cleveland, Wirral, Doncaster, Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly, East Sussex, Norfolk, Herefordshire, County of Lincolnshire, Enfield, Knowsley, Blackpool, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Salford, Hartlepool, Tower Hamlets, Wolverhampton, South Tyneside, Rochdale, Sunderland.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 24 November 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council (Pre-Council Statement)

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): The EU Competitiveness Council will take place in Brussels. Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU will represent the UK on industry issues on 25 November and I shall represent UK research issues on 26 November.

Industry agenda items will be Commission presentations and discussions on the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives "An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era" and "Innovation Union"; a lunchtime ministerial discussion on the Small Business Act; and European space policy. Research items will comprise adoption of Council conclusions on "Innovation Union", a progress report on the European research area, and the budgetary position of ITER.

There will be five items taken under any other business for which BIS will be responsible:

(a) Commission presentation of the strategy for clean and energy efficient vehicles;

(b) Joint declaration for electric mobility in Europe;

(c) Commission information concerning space policy from its communication "An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era";

(d) Commission and presidency information on the European and developing countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP);

(e) Information on research conferences organised by the presidency.

The Government's main aims will be:

To outline UK priorities for a new EU industrial policy, particularly the importance of open and competitive markets.

To show broad support for the approach adopted for the Innovation Union, but express caution over clarity of the initiative in areas such as political commitments to EU spending beyond 2014 and Commission proposals to develop a European knowledge market for patents and licensing.

To approve agenda for the Space Council and adopt the resolution entitled "Global challenges: taking full benefit of European space systems".

To express strong support for the Small Business Act, and endorse SME enterprise and competitiveness as vital tools to a sustainable European recovery, economic growth and employment.

Regard European research area items as generally uncontentious for the UK, but express some concern about the Strategic Framework For International S and T co-operation as much of this lies within national competence and there is also limited commitment by most other member states.

To ensure UK views on project management and budget issues are made clear on budgetary issues relating to ITER.

TREASURY

Financial Regulation (Consultation Responses)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government have today published a summary of responses to their consultation document, "A new approach to financial regulation: judgment, focus and stability".

This document, published on 26 July 2010, set out the Government's plans for fundamental reform of the UK's financial regulatory framework, providing the Bank of England with control of macro-prudential regulation and oversight of micro-prudential regulation. The Government will legislate to create:

a Financial Policy Committee in the Bank of England;

a new Prudential Regulation Authority, as a subsidiary of the Bank; and

an independent consumer protection and markets authority (CPMA).

In addition to a summary of consultation responses, this document confirms the Government's decisions, that:

the UK Listing Authority will remain within the CPMA's markets division; and

the FSA's criminal enforcement powers in relation to market conduct will be retained within the CPMA at this time.

The document also sets out the Government's preliminary conclusions on key themes raised by respondents to the consultation.

The Government will present more detailed policy and legislative proposals, for further consultation early in 2011. The Government intend to introduce legislation to implement their proposals in mid-2011 and the passage of legislation is expected to take around a year. The new regulatory framework is anticipated to be in place by the end of 2012.

Copies of "A new approach to financial regulation: summary of consultation responses" have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and published on the HM Treasury website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): This Government are clear that helping small shops and businesses grow is a crucial part of rebalancing and rebuilding the economy. We are committed to providing businesses with the help they need to prosper by cutting red tape and giving local authorities the tools they need to promote economic growth.

Small shops and businesses are crucial to the country's economy and they were hit hard by the financial legacy we were left. Discretionary discounts will give councils the ability to respond to local circumstances including supporting the local pub or post office if they are struggling or encouraging new start-up enterprises.

I am therefore pleased to announce that the Government intend to include in the forthcoming localism Bill the necessary provisions to:

> allow for discretionary business rates discounts so that local authorities in England will be able to respond to local circumstances by reducing business rates bills;
>
> simplify the process for claiming small business rate relief in England by removing the legal requirement for ratepayers to submit an application form.

The Government are already helping an estimated 500,000 ratepayers who are eligible for small business rate relief by doubling the normal discount for next year, worth £390 million. Approximately 345,000 of those could pay no rates at all. We want to see as many small business ratepayers as possible claim their tax cuts in the future and we are cutting the unnecessary red tape.

In addition we will amend secondary legislation to ensure that all eligible businesses in England automatically have their discounted bills calculated using the small business multiplier.

We will also ensure through the localism Bill that all future business rates supplements for England and Wales, where they fund either more or less than a third of the overall project, will have to be put to the ballot so that liable businesses can decide whether to impose the business rate supplement upon themselves.

We have already announced that the localism Bill will also contain the necessary provisions to cancel certain significant and unexpected backdated business rates bills. This will allow affected businesses, in ports and others across England, to move forward confidently, unburdened by the crippling debt imposed by this liability.

The Government have also set out radical new proposals to look at ways for local authorities to keep the business rates they collect locally. We are determined to give councils a genuine financial stake in their local economy and let them target their support at local shops, pubs, post offices and start-up enterprises.

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): The Government have on 24 November 2010 published the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans undertaken on 8 July 2010".

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be accessed via the Department of Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjul2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (England)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): DEFRA and the Environment Agency are today publishing a consultation for a national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England. This is a key step in the delivery of the Government's commitment to

> "take forward the findings of the Pitt review to improve our flood defences, and prevent unnecessary buildings in areas of high flood risk".

The Flood and Water Management Act requires the Environment Agency to prepare a national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management. The strategy will be prepared taking into account the responses to the consultation and will be submitted to Ministers for approval. Once approved, it will be laid in Parliament for 40 days before it comes into effect.

The strategy will consider risk from all sources of flooding and coastal erosion at the national level. It will help us make the difficult decisions about what Government funding is used for and how much is allocated between the different tasks and risk management authorities.

It is important that this national view is complemented by strong local leadership and accountability. The strategy will reflect the need for decisions to be made locally, by the communities at risk, and it will provide the framework to encourage and enable local action to take place. We remain committed to fully funding local authority new burdens under the Flood and Water Management Act. Up to £36 million a year will be provided directly to lead local flood authorities (£21 million in 2011-12 due to phasing-in).

The strategy proposes an overall aim for flood and coastal erosion risk management and high-level principles to guide activities at both national and local levels. One of these principles reflects Sir Michael Pitt's suggestion, in his review of the summer 2007 floods, that additional local investment in flood risk management should be allowed and encouraged.

The system proposed includes a long-term investment framework so that we have the potential over time to support local needs, build our resilience as a society and give communities a bigger say in their own future. More detailed information about how this might be implemented is provided in a linked consultation available on DEFRA's website. Accompanying consultations on draft guidance on the duty for local authorities to contribute to sustainable development and draft guidance on co-operation and the sharing of information are also being undertaken at the same time.

Links to the consultations are provided from the DEFRA and Environment Agency websites at http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/ and http://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/. The consultations will run for 12 weeks and it will be important that responses are received from the full range of interests, including parliamentarians and Select Committees.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Home Office's departmental expenditure limits for 2010-11 will be reduced by £27,570,000 from £10,002,634,000 to £9,975,064,000 and the administration budget will be reduced by £12,300,000 from £404,810,000 to £392,510,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following tables:

	Change		*New DEL*		*£000*
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	(26,496)	(1,074)	8,399,252	1,020,085	9,419,337
Of which					
Administration budget	(12,191)	(109)	213,205	179,305	392,510
Capital DEL[1]	(4,000)	4,000	588,461	175,761	764,222
Less Depreciation[2]	6,900	(6,900)	(151,029)	(57,466)	(208,495)
Total DEL	(23,596)	(3,974)	8,836,684	1,138,380	9,975,064

[1] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[2] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

			£000's
	Total	*o/w Non cash*	*o/w Admin*
(a) The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:	*(27,570)*	*0*	*(12,300)*
Transfers from other Government Departments:	*5,000*	*0*	*0*
Programme from the Security and Intelligence Agencies to the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section C) for funding counter-terrorism activities.	5,000		
Transfers to other Government Departments:	*(32,570)*	*0*	*(12,300)*
Programme from the UK Border Agency (section D) to the Ministry of Justice to help close the financial gap around asylum and immigration tribunals activity	(14,000)		
Admin from Central Services (section F) to the Ministry of Justice for shared accommodation costs.	(12,300)		(12,300)
Programme from the UK Border Agency (section D) to Communities and Local Government to fund the Migration Impact Fund.	(4,340)		
Programme from the UK Border Agency (section D) to the Scottish Government to fund the Migration Impact Fund.	(1,180)		
Programme from the Crime and Policing Group (section A) to the Ministry of Justice to meet the costs of the Victims' Commissioner's Office.	(400)		
Programme from Central Services (section F) to the Cabinet Office for improving information strategy capability.	(300)		
Programme from the UK Border Agency (section D) to the Ministry of Justice for funding the Ministerial Council on deaths in custody.	(50)		
		CAPITAL	Total
(b) There is no change in the capital element of the DEL.			*0*

JUSTICE

Cross-Undertaking in Damages (Environmental Judicial Review Cases)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am publishing the consultation paper "Consultation on Cross-Undertakings in Damages in Environmental Judicial Review Cases" on 24 November 2010.

This is a formal consultation exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Justice to seek views on whether:

> the existing measure of judicial discretion on whether to require cross-undertakings in environmental judicial review cases strikes an appropriate balance between the interests of the claimant and defendant and, where appropriate, the general public interest in the circumstances of each particular case; and
>
> such undertakings should be required when interim relief is sought.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and the document is also available online, at www.justice.gov.uk.

The consultation period will be from 24 November to 24 February 2011 and I will make a further statement regarding the response shortly after the consultation period ends.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and The National Archives (TNA) total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased as follows:

> Total DEL for MoJ (Request for Resource 1, 2 and 3) is increased by £110,348,000 from £8,989,358,000 to £9,099,706,000 and the administration budget has increased by £5,084,000 from £411,146,000 to £416,230,000.
>
> Total DEL for the TNA has remained unchanged.

Within the Total DEL change for MoJ (Request for Resource 1, 2 & 3), the impact on resource and capital are as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
	£'000	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*	*£'000*
Resource DEL	95,929	(28,581)	5,751,277	3,181,996	8,933,273
Of which:					
Administration[1]	5,084	0	415,688	542	416,230
Capital DEL[2]	49,800	(6,800)	552,925	41,405	594,330
Depreciation[3]	0	0	414,979	12,918	(427,897)
Total DEL	145,729	(35,381)	5,889,223	3,210,483	9,099,706)

[1] The total of 'administration budget' and 'near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

[3] Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the Resource and Capital DEL for MoJ arises from:

Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Movements in Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 1

Increase

i. An increase in voted expenditure of £139,000,000 resource in relation to the prison capacity programme Carter reserve claim.

ii. An increase of £18,000,000 from the Department for Education (DfE) in relation to the transfer of the youth offender policy Machinery of Government transfer.

iii. An increase of £14,000,000 from the Home Office (HO) to the Tribunals Service in relation to work related to the Asylum Immigration Tribunals.

iv. An increase of £12,300,000 from the HO in relation to accommodation costs for 2 Marsham Street.

v. An increase of £170,000 from the DfE in relation to funding the Review of Restraint Machinery of Government transfer.

vi. An increase of £1,689,000 from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (DBIS) in relation to the delivery of offender learning and skills in the contracted prison estate.

vii. An increase of £400,000 from the HO in relation to the Victim Commissioners Office.

viii. An increase of £50,000 from the HO in relation to the advisory panel into Deaths in Custody.

ix. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £2,000,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

x. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £637,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xi. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £352,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xii. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £342,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xiii. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £199,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xiv. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £173,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xv. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £160,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xvi. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £62,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

Decrease

xvii. A decrease in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure of £34,000,000 in relation to reclassification of spends.

xviii. A decrease in voted expenditure of £11,794,000 from the MoJ to the Cabinet Office (CO) in relation to the transfer of policy for the constitutional and electoral reform Machinery of Government transfer.

xix. A decrease in voted expenditure of £ 10,513,000 from MoJ to the Department of Health (DoH) in relation to additional prisoner healthcare costs.

xx. A decrease in voted expenditure of £9,809,000 from MoJ to DBIS in relation to additional operating costs in respect of libraries and careers information and advice service.

xxi. A decrease in voted expenditure of £4,300,000 from MoJ to Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in relation to Compass Case Management Funding.

xxii. A decrease in voted expenditure of £2,600,000 from MoJ to CPS in relation to witness centres.

xxiii. A decrease in voted expenditure of £1,401,000 from MoJ to DBIS in relation to Castington and Huntercombe re-role from juvenile to adult prisons.

xxiv. A decrease in voted expenditure of £500,000 from MoJ to CPS in relation to Corporate Manslaughter funding.

xxv. A decrease in voted expenditure of £785,000 from MoJ to CPS in relation to Local Criminal Boards.

xxvi. A decrease in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure of £16,500,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

xxvii. A decrease in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure of £1,200,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Legal Services Commission.

xxviii. A decrease in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure of £173,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Parole Board.

xxix. A decrease in voted expenditure offset by an increase in non-voted expenditure of £30,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 1

Increase

i. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £34,000,000 in relation to reclassification of spends.

ii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £13,560,000 from the DfE in relation to funding the LASCHS Programme Machinery of Government transfer.

iii. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £6,081,000 from the DfE in relation to the transfer of the youth offender policy Machinery of Government transfer.

iv. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £3,000,000 from the DfE in relation to funding the Intensive Fostering Programme Machinery of Government transfer.

v. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £3,000,000 from the DfE in relation to funding the Review of Restraint Machinery of Government transfer.

vi. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £16,500,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority.

vii. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £1,200,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Legal Services Commission.

viii. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £173,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Parole Board.

ix. An increase in non-voted expenditure offset by a decrease in voted expenditure of £30,000 in relation to increase in grant funding for the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Decrease

x. A decrease in non-voted expenditure of £102,200,000 (Election Funding) from the MoJ to the CO in relation to the transfer of policy for the constitutional and electoral reform Machinery of Government transfer.

xi. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £2,000,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £637,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xiii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £352,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xiv. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £342,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xv. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £199,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xvi. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £173,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xvii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £160,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

xviii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £62,000 in relation to internal funding movement.

Request for Resources 2

Increase

i. An increase in non-voted expenditure of £539,572,000 in relation to Grant to the Scottish Consolidated Fund.

Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit

The change in the capital element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit arises from:

Movements in Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 1

Increase

i. An increase of £43,000,000 in relation to the carter prisons capacity programme capital Carter reserve claim.

ii. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £6,000,000 in relation to an internal movement in funding.

iii. An increase in voted expenditure offset by a decrease in non-voted expenditure of £800,000 in relation to an internal movement in funding.

Movements in Non-Voted Expenditure

Request for Resources 1

Decrease

i. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £6,000,000 in relation to an internal movement in funding.

ii. A decrease in non-voted expenditure offset by an increase in voted expenditure of £800,000 in relation to an internal movement in funding.

Administration Costs

The movement in the administration cost limit is as a result of the following changes:

Request for Resources 1

Increase

i. An increase in voted expenditure of £12,300,000 from the HO in relation to accommodation costs for 2 Marsham Street.

Decrease

ii. A decrease in voted expenditure of £7,216,000 from the MoJ to the CO in relation to the transfer of policy for the constitutional and electoral reform Machinery of Government transfer.

2) The National Archives are not submitting a Winter Supplementary Estimate.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 25 November 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council/Foreign Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council were held on 22 October in Brussels. I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs Council (GAC)

The Belgian presidency (Foreign Minister Vanackere) chaired the meeting. The full text of all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/117939.pdf

Follow-up to the October European Council and preparations for the December Council

The discussion was dominated by economic issues, in particular the establishment of a permanent crisis mechanism, treaty change, and the process leading up to any decision by the European Council in December.

Along with others, I stressed the need to keep changes to the treaty to a minimum and ensure that national Parliaments were fully involved. Others also emphasised the importance of careful presentation and handling of economic policy matters, in order to avoid unnecessary market speculation.

On the EU budget, I reiterated our determination that EU expenditure should reflect consolidation efforts being made by member states. The December European Council will discuss how the EU budget can contribute to these efforts.

European Commission 2011 Work Programme

The Commission presented their work programme for 2011. They hoped it would increase the predictability of the discussions in the year to come. They were actively seeking feedback from national Parliaments. The UK (Sir Kim Darroch) said this exercise would aid transparency, and noted that much of the content was useful, especially on sustainable growth. However, the UK also stressed that any proposals needed to be considered against tests on subsidiarity and the avoidance of regulatory burden.

Videoconferencing at Councils

The presidency introduced proposals for a staged upgrade in the Council's video conferencing capability. These were approved without discussion.

Disaster Response

The Commissioner for International Co-operation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response (Ms Georgieva) presented the Commission's ideas on European disaster response. She stressed the need to address the increased frequency and intensity of disasters, and to use the EU's new institutional arrangements. She underscored the primary responsibility of member states, the need to be cost-effective, and the importance of UN leadership externally.

Many speakers welcomed the ideas but made clear they could not accept EU control of national assets. Any legislative proposals had to reflect the different structures in Europe, and the primacy of the UN in humanitarian operations. The UK (Sir Kim Darroch) stressed the need for flexible and pragmatic solutions, noting that future Council conclusions could broadly endorse moving forward but should not prejudge technical discussions. Others emphasised the importance of greater EU visibility and enhanced co-ordination.

The presidency concluded that there was broad agreement to proceed to Council conclusions at the December GAC.

Transparency Register

Under AOB, the European Commission informed the GAC that they had reached agreement with the European Parliament on a transparency register covering all lobbyists and NGOs who sought to influence the two institutions. The text of the agreement would be forwarded to the Council.

Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton, chaired the meeting. The full text of all conclusions adopted, including "A" points, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/117948.pdf

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) - Gaza/Lebanon

Over lunch, Ministers focused on the efforts to encourage Israel and the Palestinians to restart direct talks. Many speakers emphasised the need for the EU to support the efforts of the US. There was also concern about continuing settlement activity, particularly in East Jerusalem. Baroness Ashton said that it was important to maintain momentum to improve conditions in Gaza, reiterating the EU's readiness to contribute to this. She added that the EU would continue to work with the international quartet. On Lebanon, a number of Ministers argued that the EU should support the special tribunal. Conclusions were agreed.

Iran

Baroness Ashton updated the FAC on the latest developments on the nuclear dossier.

Sudan

Baroness Ashton invited me to lead discussion on Sudan, following the special session of the UN Security Council on Sudan on 16 November chaired by the Foreign Secretary. I highlighted that this was a defining period for Sudan: the EU needed to work energetically to support a peaceful outcome. The EU should ensure that contingency preparations were ready to be signed off at the next FAC on 13 December. The EU also needed to consider how to engage Khartoum, to complement the US package, and to strengthen the role of moderates in the north. I argued that debt relief might be an important element. Additionally, we should not lose sight of Darfur.

Other speakers echoed these themes, particularly on the need to explore quickly options on debt relief. Assistance for the three kidnapped Latvians and one Hungarian in Sudan was also raised.

Baroness Ashton announced that she was setting up a Sudan taskforce headed up by Dame Rosalind Marsden, the EU Special Representative for Sudan. Conclusions were agreed.

Preparations for forthcoming Summits and relations with strategic partners

The FAC discussed preparations for the forthcoming EU summits with Africa (29-30 November), Russia (7 December) and India (10 December), and for the OSCE summit (1-2 December). The discussion also covered the EU's strategic relations with the US, Russia and China.

Much of the discussion focused on relations with Russia, specifically visa liberalisation and Russia's WTO membership. Baroness Ashton proposed that Ministers discuss these issues further on 13 December ahead of her presentation to the December European Council.

Burma

Ministers discussed developments in Burma, including deeply flawed elections and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. Strong concern was expressed at the continued detention of 2,200 political prisoners, and there was agreement on the need for caution in the EU's response to recent events, and on the need to co-ordinate with other key partners, including the US.

Iraq

There was a brief exchange of views on the political situation and recent developments in Iraq. A number of speakers emphasised the need to pay close attention to the situation of religious minorities. Conclusions were agreed.

Belarus

The FAC was briefed by the Polish Foreign Minister on his joint visit with the German Foreign Minister to Minsk on 2 November. The Lithuanian Foreign Minister reported on the recent visit to Minsk by the Lithuanian President.

Women, Peace and Security

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that, today, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, will publicly launch the UK's national action plan on women, peace and security.

Ten years ago, the UN Security Council agreed Resolution 1325 and we committed to reduce the impact of conflict on women and girls and to promote their inclusion in conflict resolution. Ten years on, there is clearly more to do. Our new national action plan sets out how we will pursue progress through a range of initiatives and through incorporating our commitments into our diplomatic, defence and development activity.

The key commitments are:

to make "Women, Peace and Security" an integral part of our conflict policy, including through providing specialised training to civilian and military staff; placing women at the front and centre of our development policy; and the deployment of female military personnel as "Female Engagement Officers" in support of UK battle groups to improve military engagement with female Afghan civilians;

to implement specific action plans for priority countries, starting with Afghanistan, Nepal and DRC;

to strengthen the action taken by the international community, including by taking a strong advocacy role at the United Nations and supporting the enhancement of UN structures that assist women in conflict.

Revision of the national action plan has been carried out by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, in consultation with civil society, particularly the civil society coalition group: Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS).

The plan will be reviewed annually, incorporating feedback from civil society focus groups. Progress will be reported to Parliament and civil society through the Associate Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security. A full evaluation of the plan will be carried out after three years.

I am placing a copy of the national action plan in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk).

HEALTH

Violence Against Women and Children Action Plan

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): Today, I formally launch the Department of Health action plan, improving services for women and child victims of violence. This document sets out how the Department, in partnership with others, will take action in response to the findings of the independent taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and children (VAWC), which were published in March 2010.

The work programme aims to lay the foundations for embedding high-quality evidence-based practice within the national health service in response to violence and abuse and is set around four key themes: awareness-raising; workforce, education and training; improving quality of services; and evidence and information.

The action plan takes into account the key findings from the independent taskforce, which were informed by focus groups with women and children service users. An NHS implementation group on violence against women and children, established in June, will oversee progress of the implementation work.

The Department's work in this important area also feeds into the cross-Government programme on violence against women and girls. This highlights the importance of partnership-working at both a national and local level to tackle violence and abuse.

I am placing a copy of the report in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Carers Strategy

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): We are today publishing a cross-Government strategy—"Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy". This sets out the Government's priority areas for the next four years to ensure the best possible outcomes for carers and those they support. The strategy recognises the vital role that carers already play in providing support and care to people, and the importance of having a life outside the caring role. It also recognises the importance of a "whole family" approach to supporting young carers, so that they do not take on inappropriate caring roles.

The strategy sets out how the Government will reciprocate the support carers provide with measures that support the responsibilities of caring:

> supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them from the outset both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages;
>
> enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and employment potential;
>
> personalised support both for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life; and
>
> supporting carers to remain mentally and physically well.

The strategy identifies the actions that the Government will take to support these priorities. These include:

> providing £400 million additional funding over the next four years for breaks, and further resources for GP training, to increase GPs' awareness and understanding of carers' needs for support. The Department for Education has already announced that additional funding recycled from the child trust fund will be used to support short breaks services. The legislative process to place a duty on councils to commission a short breaks service should be completed in the new year;
>
> the Department for Education will make a new early intervention grant available to local government from April 2011-12, bringing together a range of funding streams for early intervention services for young people and families, including young carers;
>
> the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will issue a consultation document next year to consult with business on how best to take forward the coalition commitment to extend to all employees the right to request flexible working;
>
> the Department of Health and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will examine how small local enterprises can be encouraged to provide good quality, reliable and consistent replacement care either to give carers a break from caring responsibilities or to enable them to work alongside caring responsibilities; and
>
> the Department of Health and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will work with industry and statutory and voluntary sector stakeholders to identify the barriers and enablers to market growth in assisted living technologies, and to support further uptake and boost innovation.

The Department of Health is also publishing a guide on emerging evidence—"Carers and personalisation: improving outcomes". This includes examples to illustrate how the principles of personalisation have been applied, emphasising the value of finding ways forward that make sense and work best locally.

A copy of "Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy" has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

"Call to End Violence against Women and Girls"

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Government's ambition is nothing less than ending all forms of violence against women and girls. This is a key priority for us and today, on the international day for the elimination of violence against women, we have set out our guiding principles for this over the coming spending review period. This includes a commitment to provide more than £28 million for specialist services for victims of domestic and sexual violence over the next four years.

We will take a cross-departmental integrated approach to ending violence against women and girls by tackling its root causes and dealing fully with its effects. For the first time we have also included the work that we do at an international level to promote women's rights globally and reduce the impact of conflict on women and girls.

We will publish the detail of the supporting actions in the spring.

The "Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls" strategic narrative is available on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/vawg and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

TRANSPORT

Rail Investment

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): This statement sets out the Government's plans for investment in rail infrastructure and rolling stock. It builds on the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the outcome of the spending review.

Over the next four years, we will provide £14 billion of funding to Network Rail to support capital maintenance and infrastructure investment; and £750 million for high speed rail. We will also fund the Crossrail project, the tube upgrade programme, light rail projects in Birmingham, Tyneside, Nottingham and Sheffield; and provide additional funding to franchisees for extra rolling stock.

Today, I can confirm we will fund and deliver the Thameslink programme in its entirety, virtually doubling the number of north-south trains running through central London at peak times. But the original programme for the rebuilding of London Bridge was always ambitious, with substantial risks around delivery, and operation of existing services, during construction. To reduce these risks, we have re-profiled the delivery of the programme to achieve completion in 2018. This will enable Network Rail to make further efficiencies to their design and delivery programme.

As part of the Thameslink programme, we will procure a new fleet of trains—up to 1,200 new carriages. This is in addition to around 600 new carriages which will be provided for the Crossrail project. The new Thameslink and Crossrail rolling stock will enable the redeployment of hundreds of serviceable electric carriages currently used on Thameslink services. These carriages belong to rolling-stock leasing companies, but we expect they will be available at competitive leasing prices for re-use elsewhere, thus justifying further electrification of our network.

As a first step, Network Rail will electrify the commuter services on the great western main line from London to Didcot, Oxford and Newbury over the next six years. Electric trains will speed up journeys, improve reliability and reduce the impact on the environment. Network Rail will also electrify the lines between Liverpool, Manchester, Preston and Blackpool—an investment of up to £300 million. Work is expected to begin next year and to be finished in 2016. As with Thameslink, we expect Network Rail to keep a tight rein on costs.

The redeployment of electric rolling stock to these routes will, in turn, free up hundreds of diesel units which will be available to train operators to lease as they become available in the period after 2015.

I can also today confirm that an additional 650 carriages will have been delivered to the network between 6 May 2010 and March 2014. This is in addition to the Thameslink and Crossrail carriages I have already mentioned.

We have funding confirmed for developments at Reading, Birmingham, London Kings Cross and Gatwick Airport. In addition, investments on the east coast main line and midland main line and improvements in Yorkshire, on trans-Pennine routes, around Manchester and in South Wales will improve line speed, reliability and capacity of services.

Beyond these investments in the commuter railway, there are far-reaching decisions to be made about intercity services. The Intercity Express programme, launched by the previous Government, identified the Agility Trains consortium as preferred bidder to build a new fleet of intercity trains. This February, my predecessors invited Sir Andrew Foster, to provide an independent assessment of the programme. Sir Andrew recommended work on the Agility Trains proposal and a detailed study of the alternatives. Following this work, the four options Sir Andrew identified, have been narrowed down to two. I have ruled out the option of requiring passengers to interchange from electric to diesel trains, recognising the value to passengers of preserving through-journeys. I have also ruled out the option of a wholesale refurbishment of the existing diesel "Intercity 125" fleet, some of which dates back to the 1970s.

The remaining options are, on the one hand a revised, lower-cost Agility Trains proposal, which envisages a mixed fleet: some all-electric trains, and some electric trains which are also equipped with under-floor diesel engines. And on the other, a fleet of new all-electric trains which could be coupled to new diesel locomotives where the overhead electric power lines end. Both these options would allow us to preserve through-journeys between London and parts of the rail network which are not electrified. Both of them would deliver faster journey times. For example, we expect to see a time saving of at least 15 minutes, for the journey between Cardiff and London bringing it below two hours.

This is a major decision which will affect intercity rail travel for decades, and we must get it right. To address outstanding issues on choice of train type and further electrification on the great western main line, additional work will be required within the Department, with Agility Trains, and with the Welsh Assembly Government on the business case for electrification into Wales. I expect to announce a final decision on IEP, and on further great western electrification, in the new year.

This package I have announced today has only been possible because this Government have been prepared to take the tough decisions to protect investment in Britain's future. I will make a further oral statement to the House on the issues raised in this statement later today.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Opposition Day Debate Clarification (Housing Benefit)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): In the course of the Opposition day debate on housing benefit, 9 November 2010, I stated that:

> "We now know that, according to the Office for National Statistics, the private marketplace in housing—Labour Members are completely wrong about this—fell by around 5% last year. At the same time, LHA rates, which the previous Government had set and left to us, had risen by 3%".—[*Official Report*, 9 November 2010; Vol. 518, c. 167].

The correct answer should have been:

> "We now know that, according to national statistics, the private marketplace in housing—Labour Members are completely wrong about this—fell by around 5% between November 2008 and February 2010. At the same time, national LHA rates, the system the previous Government left us, had risen by 3%".

The source of this statistic, as published in DWP's analytical supplement to the Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiry of 3 November, is the Find a Property private rental index. This source for rental data has been used by the Department and wider Government since 2008 when the Department for Communities and Local Government stopped producing their own private rental index. The Find A Property index is the biggest national private rental property website with an extensive amount of nationwide data.

> "For where problems do arise, we have tripled the discretionary housing payment to £140 million".—[*Official Report*, 9 November 2010; Vol. 518 c. 174].

I am happy to clarify that discretionary housing payment funding will be £130 million and that £10 million will be available from Communities and Local Government funding for homelessness prevention, hence totalling £140 million over the spending review period. Funding on discretionary housing payments will indeed triple in year from 2012-13.

> "Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would like to explain how the figures show that the real-terms increase over the past five years was 50%, not 18%".—[*Official Report*, 9 November 2010; Vol. 518, c. 149].

I can confirm that housing benefit expenditure has increased by 50% in real terms from £14 billion in 2000-01 to a forecast £21.5 billion in 2010-11.

Work Programme (Framework Providers)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Government have previously announced their plans for radical reforms of the welfare-to-work system and the implementation of the Work programme.

Work to deliver the programme is progressing quickly and we are on track to deliver nationwide by the summer of 2011.

Today we announce the providers who will be invited to bid to deliver the Work programme and subsequent employment-related support initiatives. These providers have been named on our framework for employment-related support services, which is the commercial vehicle through which the Work programme will be delivered. The list of suppliers will be released at 1pm today, and can be found here:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-DWP/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/work-programme

We are delighted that we received so much interest in the framework and we had strong competition from the market. The providers we have selected represent the very best of organisations from both the private and voluntary sectors. There is a good mix of existing suppliers and new entrants to the market, including innovative partnerships.

The Work programme is the Government's flagship welfare-to-work programme, and will be built around the needs of individuals: we will give providers longer to work with customers and greater freedom to decide the appropriate support for them. We will also offer stronger incentives for providers to work with harder-to-help customers, and to get people into sustained jobs.

7

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 29 November 2010

TREASURY

Banking Act 2009 (Reporting)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Treasury has today published a report required under section 231 of the Banking Act 2009 covering the period from 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Debt Management Remit 2010-2011 (Revisions)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government are today revising the Debt Management Office's (DMO) 2010-11 financing remit to reflect revisions to the net financing requirement. The net financing requirement for 2010-11 has been revised upward—by £0.2 billion—from £162.5 billion at the June Budget to £162.7 billion. The revisions to the net financing requirement arise from the net effect of:

a reduction in the central Government net cash requirement (CGNCR) of £1.9 billion;

an increase in sterling financing for the official reserves of £2.0 billion; and

additional secondary gilt market purchases by the DMO of £0.1 billion.

The downward revision to the CGNCR is a reflection of revisions announced today by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) to the fiscal aggregates, which have a consequential impact on the CGNCR. The revisions are set out in the OBR's "Economic and fiscal outlook, November 2010", published today.

The increased funding for the official reserves has been provided to meet potential calls under the UK's IMF commitments. These commitments have recently expanded following parliamentary approval in July 2010 of the UK's increased contribution to the IMF's New Arrangements To Borrow. This delivered the UK's share of the G20 agreement to treble the resources available to the IMF.

The increase in the net financing requirement of £0.2 billion will be met by an increase in the gilt issuance programme in 2010-11 of £0.2 billion. Gross gilt issuance for 2010-11 is now projected at £165.2 billion.

The planned Treasury bill stock as at 31 March 2011 is £60.8 billion—unchanged from the projection at the June 2010 Budget (and compares with levels as at: 31 March 2010—£63.3 billion; 31 March 2009—£44.0 billion).

As at the June 2010 Budget, the Government are confirming the net finance target for National Savings Investments to be a zero net contribution to financing, within a range of +/- £2 billion.

For 2010-11, gross gilt issuance of £165.2 billion is projected to be split as follows:

£52.7 billion of short maturity gilt issuance (31.9% of total);

£38.2 billion of medium maturity gilt issuance (23.1% of total);

£40.5 billion of long maturity gilt issuance (24.5% of total);

£33.8 billion of index-linked gilt issuance (20.5% of total);

This proportionate split is unchanged from that announced in June 2010.

Auctions will remain the Government's primary method by which gilts are issued. The Government will continue to use supplementary methods—syndication, mini-tenders and the post-auction "top up" facility—to issue gilts in the remainder of 2010-11. For 2010-11, it is projected that:

£132.0 billion will be issued by pre-announced auctions (79.9% of total);

£26.2 billion will be issued by syndication (15.9% of total); and

£7.0 billion will be issued by mini-tender (4.2% of total).

Consistent with provisions in the DMO's financing remit relating to the post-auction "top-up" facility, average auction sizes in the remainder of the year will be reduced but there will be no change to the number or timing of auctions scheduled for the remainder of 2010-11.

The Government are also publishing today a revised estimate of the fiscal impact of the spending review 2010, based on the OBR's autumn forecast. Copies of this document have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

Financing requirement 2010-11

		2010-11	
£ billion		*June Budget*	*Autumn statement*
Central Government net cash requirement		*146.1*	*144.2*
Gilt redemptions		38.6	38.6
Financing for the official reserves[1]		4.0	6.0
Buy-backs[2]		0.1	0.2
Planned short-term financing adjustment[3]		-26.3	-26.3
Gross financing requirement		*162.5*	*162.7*
Less			
Assumed net contribution from National Savings & Investments		0.0	0.0
Net financing requirement		*162.5*	*162.7*
Financed by:			
1. Debt issuance by the Debt Management Office			
Treasury bills		-2.5	-2.5
Gilts		165.0	165.2
of which			
Conventional	Short	52.6	52.7
	Medium	38.2	38.2
	Long	40.4	40.5

Financing requirement 2010-11

	2010-11	
£ billion	*June Budget*	*Autumn statement*
Index-linked	33.8	33.8
2. Other planned changes in short-term debt[4]		
Changes in Ways and Means	0.0	0.0
3. Unanticipated changes in short-term cash position[5]	*0.0*	*0.0*
Total financing	*162.5*	*162.7*
Short-term debt levels at end of financial year		
Treasury bill stock in market hands[6]	60.8	60.8
Ways and Means	0.4	0.4
DMO net cash position	0.5	0.5

[1] The additional £2 billion of Sterling financing for the Official Reserves will be provided to meet potential calls on the Official Reserves arising from the commitments made at the G20 London summit.

[2] Purchases "rump" gilts which are older, small gilts, declared as such by the DMO and in which gilt-edged Market Makers (GEMMs) are not required to make two-way markets. The Government will not sell further amounts of such gilts to the market but the DMO is prepared, when asked by a GEMM, to make a price to purchase such gilts.

[3] To accommodate changes to the current year's financing requirement resulting from: (i) publication of the previous year's outturn CGNCR; (ii) an increase in the DMO's cash position at the Bank of England; and /or (iii) carry over of unanticipated changes to the cash position from the previous year.

[4] Total planned changes to short-term debt are the sum of: (i) the planned short-tern financing adjustment; (ii) net Treasury bill sales; and (iii) changes to the level of the Ways and Means advance.

[5] A negative (positive) number indicates an addition to (reduction in) the financing requirement for the following financial year.

[6] The DMO has operational flexibility to vary the end-financial year stock subject to its operational requirements in 2010-11

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

UK Film Policy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): In July the Government announced their decision to abolish the UK Film Council.

Today I am announcing our proposals to support British film going forward.

The British Film Institute will become the flagship body for film policy in the UK. The BFI will be nominated as the distributor of film lottery money via secondary legislation.

The BFI will be entrusted with the remit to support the film industry in the nations and the regions and to lead on audience development and education. Work in support of certification and the media desk will also be transferred to the BFI.

Lottery funding to support film will increase from about £27 million today to more than £40 million by 2014.

Film London will be entrusted with a UK-wide remit to promote the UK as the best place to invest in film, working in partnership with the film industry.

A consultation will be launched next year to consider how to build a more sustainable film industry and how to develop the distribution and exhibition of British films in the UK. This review will be led by the DCMS and the BFI and will include a review of lottery distribution and recoupment policy. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute their views through a formal consultation.

The DCMS and BFI will work with broadcasters and exhibitors on how to incentivise audiences to go and watch British films and increase their exposure, following Odeon's proposals today which we welcome.

The BFI will work with Film London, BBC Worldwide, and BAFTA on how BAFTA and BBC Worldwide could support the distribution of British films abroad.

The BFI will go through a radical change to take up this challenge and become the flagship body for film policy. The chairman of the BFI will consult his board and detail his views on how this will be taken forward very shortly. We are all clear that these changes will need to be significant and far-reaching and include a review of their management structures to ensure they are properly equipped to take up these functions.

DCMS and the BFI will shortly agree the details of the new direct relationship that will be established, including accountability mechanisms. Our own internal audit will simultaneously audit the BFI's financial systems and processes to provide assurance that these are appropriate for the significant Exchequer and lottery funding the BFI will be receiving going forward.

Due diligence work will start immediately between UKFC, BFI and Film London in order to produce a detailed transfer plan early next year to provide clarity and certainty to all players, in particular to staff and to lottery applicants. This plan will ensure that there is no gap in lottery distribution as the transfer progresses.

In the meantime the UKFC remains in charge of lottery distribution. All existing commitments will be honoured.

Existing arrangements for lottery distribution will remain in place during 2011-12 to allow time for the review of lottery distribution to take place and provide certainty and stability. The aim is that the conclusions of the review will be implemented in 2012.

The detailed timetable for the formal closure of the UKFC will be published following the due diligence work.

DEFENCE

Ground Close Combat Roles (Women)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): In accordance with the requirements of the EC equal treatment directive, the

Ministry of Defence has carried out a review of the current policy of excluding women from ground close-combat roles. The policy was last formally reviewed in 2002.

Considerably more direct evidence is available now than was the case when the previous review was carried out. However, the conclusions are mixed and do not provide the basis for a clear recommendation either way as to whether the current policy of excluding women from ground close-combat roles should be retained or rescinded.

The service chief's view is that women are fundamental to the operational effectiveness of the UK armed forces, bringing talent and skills across the board. Their capability in almost all areas is not in doubt, they win the highest decorations for valour, and demonstrate that they are capable of acting independently and with great initiative. But these situations are not those typical of the small tactical teams in the combat arms which are required deliberately to close with and kill the enemy. The consequences of opening up these small tactical teams in close-combat roles to women are unknown. Other nations have very mixed experiences.

In the light of the inconclusive results of the research and the views of the service chiefs, I have concluded that a precautionary approach is necessary. Accordingly, the current policy of excluding women from ground close-combat roles while ensuring that the maximum numbers of trades are available to provide opportunity to those women who wish to serve their country will continue.

In parallel with this statement, I am publishing a full report on the review, including the research that was carried out, on the Department's website at

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/PersonnelPublications/EqualityandDiversity/Gender/WomenInCombat.htm.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

UK Civil Nuclear Trade Policy (India)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt): On 6 September 2008, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) granted India an exception to its guidelines to permit exports to Indian civil nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. The UK was a long-standing and strong supporter of the need for such an exception to allow India to develop its civil nuclear power sector for peaceful purposes.

Following this announcement, the UK has developed a strong civil nuclear relationship with India, in line with our non-proliferation commitments and international obligations. The UK-India civil nuclear co-operation declaration, signed on 11 February this year, was a joint statement of our intent in this area. In light of our enhanced relationship following the recent high-level visit, the UK Government would like to restate their policy towards nuclear-related exports to India, the details of which are as follows.

The UK is committed to allow the promotion and facilitation of trade and other commercial activities between India and the UK relating to the peaceful civil use of nuclear energy to help India meet its energy needs, taking into full account both India and the UK's respective international commitments and obligations. At the UK-India summit in New Delhi on 29 July 2010, the Prime Minister and Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh welcomed the opportunities that had opened up for co-operation in the civil nuclear power sector, including with regard to nuclear trade and exchanges between scientific institutions.

The UK's position is a reflection of the positive approach that India is taking in addressing the issue of nuclear proliferation, which is of mutual concern to both countries. It is also a reflection of the agreements and commitments India has made; in particular, India's move towards separating its military and civil nuclear programmes and implementing IAEA safeguards at its civil nuclear facilities.

Prior to the Nuclear Suppliers Group exception, the UK's policy was to refuse export licences for all NSG trigger list items to India.

In November 2008, the UK revised this policy, and has since assessed all export licence applications on a case-by-case basis against the NSG guidelines for nuclear transfers as applied to India, as well as our wider nuclear non-proliferation treaty obligations. In line with the NSG guidelines, the UK will authorise the transfer of NSG trigger list exports to IAEA safeguarded civil nuclear facilities when satisfied that the transfers will not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosives activities, or be diverted to acts of terrorism.

The UK will continue this policy. As set out in the NSG guidelines:

> for an NSG trigger list export, we will continue to take into account whether its export is for peaceful purposes, whether it is destined for a nuclear facility safeguarded by the IAEA and whether there is an unacceptable risk of diversion to an unsafeguarded facility. To this end, the UK will seek assurances from the Indian Government that the export will be used only for safeguarded nuclear activities which are not related to nuclear explosive activities; and
>
> for an NSG dual-use list export, we will continue to take into account whether its export is for a nuclear-related end use, whether it is destined for a nuclear facility safeguarded by the IAEA and whether there is an unacceptable risk of diversion to an unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle activity.

The UK will therefore only license the export of NSG controlled goods to nuclear fuel cycle activities safeguarded by the IAEA, or for non-nuclear related end uses where we do not assess there is an unacceptable risk of diversion to an unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle activity.

We will also favourably consider applications to export licensable items other than those controlled by the NSG to India for a nuclear-related end use, including those assessed as licensable under the WMD end-use control, unless there are specific proliferation concerns related to the export. In particular, such assessment will take into account:

> the utility of the items for export to a nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activity;
>
> the legitimacy and credibility of the stated end use;
>
> the nature and business of the stated end-user (including whether they are linked to unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle activity or nuclear explosive activity); and
>
> any diversionary concerns.

In line with our international obligations, the UK is committed actively to encourage the UK's nuclear scientific institutions and universities to establish greater links with Indian institutions, and to develop co-operation in nuclear research and development of the civil uses of nuclear energy technology. Where an export licence is required for such co-operation, the UK will continue to assess applications on a case-by-case basis in line with the NSG guidelines. Such assessment will take into account whether the transfer is of information already in the public domain or is assessed as basic scientific research, as well as the standard provisions of UK export control legislation.

HEALTH

Dental National Decontamination Survey 2010

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Simon Burns): In recent years we have gained a better understanding of the risks of transmission of infectious diseases like hepatitis from poorly maintained health care premises and instruments which have not undergone effective decontamination. The risk to individual dental patients is small but, with 1.5 million people undergoing dental treatment each week and some 500,000 people infected with blood-borne viruses many of whom may be unaware of their infection, we cannot afford to be complacent.

Because of this risk and evidence that some dental practices might not be achieving adequate standards, the Department issued health technical memorandum 01-05 "Decontamination in primary care dental practices" in November 2009. In implementing the HTM we have sought to strike a balance between protecting patients and the constraints imposed by the layout and structure of dental practices which, while being easily accessible in the high street, may have limited scope for expansion and upgrading.

I am today publishing the report of the dental national decontamination survey which was undertaken at the start of the year. The primary aim of this, the first national survey of current standards of decontamination in primary care dental practices, was to provide a baseline to compare standards in general dental practice at the time of issue of the HTM 01-05 with those set in the guidance. The HTM is intended to encourage continuous improvement in local decontamination by giving dental practices a range of options to achieve the essential quality requirements (EQR) identified in the HTM and progress to best practice.

EQR is a level of decontamination which will achieve significant risk reduction, while best practice offers an optimum level of protection. The main features of best practice are the provision of a dedicated room for decontamination away from where clinical care is delivered and the use of an automated washer-disinfector, for the cleaning of instruments.

All practices are expected to be operating at EQR by the end of this year; no timeframe has yet been set for the achievement of best practice because of the need for further information to be obtained about the constraints imposed by the design and structure of some dental practices.

I am very grateful to the primary care trusts (PCTs) and the dental practices which participated in this voluntary survey, and to the Health Protection Agency which worked with the Department in bringing it to completion. In total 75 PCTs participated in the survey which involved nurses with training and experience in infection control visiting 487 randomly selected dental practices. Practices were assessed in relation to essential quality requirements and best practice at the time that the HTM was published.

The results of the survey showed that around 70% of practices were already working at EQR with some 20% of practices already achieving best practice. Approaching 20% of practices were very near EQR with the remaining minority operating at an unsatisfactory standard.

These results show that the majority of practices were meeting EQR and it is likely that this figure would have increased over the year as practices began to implement the HTM.

I was very encouraged to learn that well over two thirds of practices were already meeting EQR. As to the remainder, the survey data show a number of practices need to improve their cleaning of instruments which is a critical part of the decontamination cycle. The Department is encouraging practices to acquire automated washer-disinfectors, whose use is a feature of best practice, to achieve a uniformly high standard of cleaning of dental instruments.

The Department has, in collaboration with the Infection Prevention Society, produced a self-assessment audit tool to allow all dental practices to assess their level of compliance with the quality standards in the guidance. By applying the audit tool, practices will be able to compare their standards to those included in the sample survey.

The quality of local decontamination will be one of the factors the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will take into account in monitoring standards when dental practices are brought within its remit from April 2011. The CQC will wish to ensure that it only registers practices that can demonstrate local decontamination is carried out to acceptable standards.

The dental national decontamination survey report has been placed in the Library. Copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office and for noble Lords in the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 30 November 2010

TREASURY

Pensions Tax Discussion Document

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): On 14 October the Government announced that from April 2011, the annual allowance (AA) for tax-privileged pension saving will be reduced from £255,000 to £50,000 and that from April 2012 the lifetime allowance (LTA) will be reduced from £1.8 million to £1.5 million. These changes will generate around £4 billion annual revenue in the steady state, protecting the public finances.

As a result of measures taken in the design of the new pensions tax regime, the Government believe that few individuals will incur tax charges from exceeding the AA. However, it recognises that in some exceptional cases, typically of long-serving individuals in defined benefit schemes, it is possible that large charges could occur. These charges reflect a significant uplift in pension value in a given year. The Government have today published a discussion document on options to meet high annual allowances charges. These include payment from pension benefits or by the pension scheme. This document is now available online on the Treasury website, and has been deposited in the House Library.

The Government intend to publish draft clauses on the chosen approach by February 2011.

Alcohol Taxation Review

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): I am today publishing further information about potential tax measures following the review of alcohol taxation. I am making this update available on the HM Treasury website and a copy has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

These measures are part of the wider Government action to tackle problem drinking due to be announced this week by the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Government recognise that in some areas taxation can have a role in helping to address the harms associated with problem drinking. For example, a change to the definition of cider has already been made resulting in increased duty on cheap, strong ciders strongly associated with public health concerns.

To complement this change, the Government intend to introduce a new additional duty on beers over 7.5% abv (alcohol by volume) in strength. This will help to address the consumption of cheap, "super strength" lagers that are also associated with high, and dangerous, levels of alcohol consumption.

Changes will also be made to introduce a reduced rate of duty on beers produced at an alcoholic strength of 2.8% abv or below. This measure will help encourage the production and consumption of lower-strength beers and give responsible drinkers additional choice.

These measures will continue to be developed with a final announcement made at Budget 2011. Draft Finance Bill clauses will be published alongside other Finance Bill measures on 9 December 2011 as announced recently by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, *Official Report*, 9 November, column 10WS.

There are no further changes to the structure of the duty on alcohol as a result of this review. Decisions about duty rates remain a matter for the Chancellor at the Budget. The Treasury will continue to engage with industry and other interested groups ahead of the Budget.

DEFENCE

Light Protected Patrol Vehicle

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): Following the announcement I gave on 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, regarding the award of preferred bidder status to Force Protection Europe, I am pleased to announce the successful contract negotiation of the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle (LPPV) competition. The new vehicle, Foxhound, will replace the existing Snatch Land Rovers and Weapons Mount Installation Kit (WMIK) vehicles on operations in Afghanistan. An initial tranche of 200 vehicles is being procured through the urgent operational requirements process, and we expect the first vehicles to be delivered for training in late 2011 prior to their first operational use in spring 2012. Further buys of Foxhound will be subject to the confirmation of our wider requirement.

Force Protection Europe's vehicle represents leading-edge technology and will provide an unprecedented balance of protection, weight and agility for a vehicle of its class. Foxhound is a new design developed specifically to meet the requirements of UK armed forces, and is only now possible due to the considerable investment by the Ministry of Defence and UK industry in this technology. Foxhound is designed and manufactured in the UK, creating or sustaining over 750 jobs. It is also ideally placed to take advantage of the export market, which the Government are fully committed to supporting.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Pre-EU Energy Council Meeting

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): In advance of the forthcoming Energy Council in Brussels on 3 December, I am writing to outline the agenda items to be discussed. I will represent the UK.

The main items on the agenda at the Energy Council will be the recently published Commission documents, the "Energy 2020" strategy and the communication on energy infrastructure priorities. The Commission will present the two communications, followed by a discussion by Ministers on the basis of questions provided by the Belgian presidency. This discussion is intended to help prepare for the debate among Heads of Government/State at the energy-themed European Council in February. At the Energy Council, I will welcome the publication of the communications, and support their strong emphasis on energy efficiency, the internal market, overcoming barriers to infrastructure investment and the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies. I will also emphasise the need for the debate at the February European Council to focus on the major issues facing EU energy policy as the EU moves to a low-carbon, energy-secure future while preserving its international competitiveness.

Ministers at the Energy Council will also adopt Council conclusions on a consumer energy policy and on the Commission's recent communication on the safety of offshore oil and gas activities. We broadly welcome the conclusions and expect them to be adopted without discussion. The Commission will then update the Council on a number of international energy relations events and on the state of play of the European energy recovery programme. The Greek delegation will also inform the Council of a "green energy development initiative" adopted at a meeting of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organisation in October.

In the morning of the Council, I will sign a memorandum of understanding on the North sea offshore grid initiative with colleagues from Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland, Luxembourg, Denmark and Norway. The MOU commits the signatories to working together to identify the barriers and explore ways of tackling a more co-ordinated development of offshore grids. It recognises the role that the renewable energy resources of the North sea can play in meeting the EU's climate and energy targets and the benefits it can bring in terms of security of supply and market integration.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Minister of State with responsibility for agriculture and food, my hon. Friend the Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice), and the Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for natural environment and fisheries, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon), are representing the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 29 and 30 November.

There are two fisheries and four agriculture items on the agenda. Discussion will take place on the following:

Total allowable catches and quotas for deep-sea species;

EU-Norway fisheries agreement: discussion with Norway about management of joint stocks in North sea/north Atlantic as part of the December fisheries package;

Plant protection product 1, 3 —dichloropropene: the Commission has proposed banning this soil fumigant;

Report on possibility of the European Food Safety Agency charging fees:

Commission communication on the future of the CAP: this is the first chance of the Council to respond to this recently published communication

Communication on the Farm Advisory Service: routine report on its operation.

There are currently six items under any other business

1. Long-term fisheries management plans—information supplied by the Commission

2. Conference on the reform of the plant health regime: report from presidency

3. Conference on animal welfare: report from presidency

4. 2011 budget: update from the Commission on handling agriculture payments, should the EU 2011 budget not be agreed before the end of the year

5. Conference on food security: report back by the Dutch on their recent conference

6. G20 and agriculture: report from the French on their plans for their G20.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): A report on "The contribution that reporting of greenhouse gas emissions makes to the UK meeting its climate change objectives" will be laid before Parliament today.

The report is laid to meet the requirement in section 84 of the Climate Change Act 2008. Copies will be made available in the Vote Office and can also be accessed on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/index.htm.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate (Wickham Laboratories)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): The Government have today published a report by the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate (the Home Office inspectorate) of a review of compliance at Wickham Laboratories, a contract research laboratory designated as a scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (the 1986 Act). Copies of the report have been placed in the Library of the House and posted on the Home Office website.

Wickham Laboratories was the subject of a report published in November 2009 by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) in which a number of detailed issues and concerns were set out based on material gathered by an investigator. In the light of the BUAV report, my predecessor as Home Office Minister responsible for the implementation of the 1986 Act asked the Home Office inspectorate to review and report on the issues and concerns raised in it and for recommendations on any action required.

The review has been thorough and the review report addresses all of the key issues and concerns raised by the BUAV. The Government are grateful for the report and accept its main findings and conclusions. While the majority of concerns raised by the BUAV in their report have not been substantiated, the report identifies a number of potential breaches of the conditions of Wickham Laboratories' certificate of designation and of one project licence held there. Action to deal with these issues is now in hand.

With regard to the monitoring of the establishment, the review has found that Home Office inspectors have maintained a regular programme of inspections and raised issues of compliance and best practice with staff in a number of areas of activity. However, relatively frequent changes of inspector over the last five years have led to some problems ensuring issues raised by inspectors were followed up by Wickham Laboratories.

It is also accepted that some potential breaches of licence and certificate conditions were not identified by the regular inspection programme. Accordingly, the review recommends measures for stricter oversight of Wickham Laboratories and to ensure that procedures for the handover of establishments between inspectors are always carried out fully. These are being taken forward as a matter of urgency.

Action is also in hand to identify and take forward wider lessons to be learned from the review with regard to the implementation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 more generally.

Investigatory Powers Tribunal

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has reappointed members to the tribunal (including a president and vice president) by letters patent for a period of five years, as provided by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. The reappointed tribunal members are:

Lord Justice John Mummery - President
Mr Justice Michael Burton - Vice President
Sir Richard Gaskell
Sheriff Principle John McInnes QC
Mr Richard Seabrook QC

The tribunal considers proceedings brought under section 7 of the Human Rights Act 1998 against the intelligence agencies and, in respect of the investigatory powers covered by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, by all public authorities. It also considers all complaints against the intelligence agencies and all complaints against public authorities in respect of the powers in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. The tribunal, which is independent of Government, has full powers to investigate and decide any case within its jurisdiction.

SCOTLAND

Scotland Bill (Publication)

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): Today the Scotland Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament. This Bill delivers the commitment in the coalition Government's programme for government to strengthen and deepen the Scottish devolution settlement. Our proposals, based on the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution, will extend and develop the arrangements set out in the Scotland Act 1998, which established the first democratically elected Parliament for Scotland.

The Commission was set up by the Scottish Parliament and supported by the UK Government. The Commission's remit was:

> "To review the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 in the light of experience and to recommend any changes to the present constitutional arrangements that would enable the Scottish Parliament to serve the people of Scotland better, improve the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament, and continue to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom".

The Commission, under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Kenneth Caiman, produced a detailed report that was founded on a robust evidence base, sound analysis and extensive engagement with people in Scotland. The consensus arrived at by the Commission was clear: the devolution settlement in Scotland has been "a remarkable and substantial success". The Commission's key conclusion was that devolution has brought clear benefits for Scotland, ensuring that Scottish solutions can be developed for Scottish problems. The Scottish Parliament has established itself firmly in public life, bringing greater accountability to the people of Scotland, and innovation in both policy and working methods.

But crucially, the Commission also highlighted a number of areas for reform within the devolution settlement to ensure that it continues to deliver for people in Scotland. The key area of reform related to financial accountability. The Scotland Bill will ensure that from now on the Scottish Parliament and Government can be held to account not just for how they spend money, but also for how they raise it. This imbalance between power and responsibility within the existing Scotland Act will be addressed in the Bill introduced today.

The Scotland Bill creates a new Scottish rate of income tax. The current block grant funding from the UK Government to Scotland will be adjusted in exchange for power for the Scottish Parliament to raise its own taxes. This new tax-raising power will apply alongside the existing UK-wide income tax. In Scotland, the UK rates of income tax will be reduced by 10p from the lower, higher and top rates of income tax. The Scottish Parliament will then make a tax decision to levy a single additional rate, which can either match UK rates, or go higher, or lower. This will replace the Scottish Parliament's existing power to vary income tax in Scotland by up to 3p, up or down.

In line with the Commission recommendations, the finance changes will be introduced carefully with transitional arrangements in place to ensure there is no windfall gain or adverse shock to the Scottish budget. This new tax-raising power will be in place for the Scottish Parliament elected in 2015. The Scotland Bill also devolves responsibility for two smaller taxes to the Scottish Government: stamp duty land tax and landfill tax. In addition, the Bill will provide the Scottish Government with a substantial power to borrow to finance capital expenditure and a power to borrow to finance current expenditure when tax receipts are less than expected.

The Scotland Bill also sets out a number of adjustments to the distribution of reserved and devolved responsibilities. The Scottish Parliament and Government will take on power to regulate air weapons, set the drink-drive limit and set national speed limits. The Commission, on the basis of the evidence, concluded that some areas would be better administered at the UK level and so in two areas—the regulation of health professions and the administration of corporate insolvency—the Scotland Bill will transfer power back to the UK Parliament and Ministers.

The Scotland Bill is just part of the Government's response to the Commission's recommendations. The Bill is accompanied by a Command Paper which sets out how the Government are responding to all the recommendations from the Commission, not only improving the legal framework that established devolution in Scotland, but also supporting the relationships between officials, Ministers and Parliaments to ensure its continuing success.

The Scotland Bill demonstrates the determination of the coalition Government to ensure that the Scottish Parliament is empowered to meet the needs of the Scottish people. Both the Bill and the accompanying Command Paper set out the bold reforms the Government are taking to strengthen the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government. Once the measures included in the Scotland Bill and this paper are fully implemented, a historic shift in power will have been accomplished. The Scottish Parliament and Scottish Ministers will have more powers, be more accountable, and be able to be more responsive to Scotland's needs within the framework of a strong and stable United Kingdom.

Copies of the Command Paper which accompanies the Bill have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and the Vote Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit Reform (Private Rented Sector)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): In June 2010, the Government announced a number of measures that will contain housing benefit expenditure and create a fairer system of support by taking steps to ensure that people on benefit are not living in accommodation that would be out of reach of most people in work. In its first step to reform housing benefit, the Government are amending legislation in relation to customers living in the private rented sector, primarily affecting customers whose housing benefit is assessed according to local housing allowance rules.

I have today laid the Housing Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2010 and amendments to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) Order 1997 that will bring into effect measures to:

i. remove the five-bedroom local housing allowance rate so that the maximum level is for a four-bedroom property.

ii. introduce absolute caps so that local housing allowance weekly rates cannot exceed £250 for a one-bedroom property; £290 for a two-bedroom property; £340 for a three-bedroom property; £400 for a four-bedroom property.

iii. remove the up to £15 weekly housing benefit excess that some customers can receive under the local housing allowance arrangements.

iv. include an additional bedroom within the size criteria used to assess housing benefit claims in the private rented sector where a disabled person, or someone with a long-term health condition, has a proven need for overnight care and this is provided by a non-resident carer.

v. set local housing allowance rates at the 30th percentile of rents in each broad rental market area rather than the median.

The Government are convinced it is absolutely necessary to take urgent steps to manage housing benefit expenditure, and to ensure that people who make new claims for housing benefit in the private rented sector are prevented from claiming the higher rates of local housing allowance. The Government have listened to advice from the Social Security Advisory Committee and from key stakeholders in relation to the implementation of these measures and, clearly, it is essential that existing customers have sufficient time to adjust to their new circumstances. In order to ensure a smooth transition for the changes in 2011, the measures will come into force as follows:

The measure to provide an additional bedroom within the size criteria for some customers with a non-resident carer will proceed in April 2011. All claimants who meet the criteria will be entitled immediately from April.

All changes that will adjust the way local housing allowance rates are calculated will come into force from April 2011 for new claims to ensure the measures are fiscally neutral over the spending review period. Existing claimants affected by the changes to local housing allowance rules will continue at their current rate of benefit until their claim is reviewed by their local authority; they will then have a further period of transitional protection at their current local housing allowance rate of up to nine months if there has not been a relevant change of circumstances. No one will be able to receive more in benefit than they pay out in rent once their claim has been reviewed.

In addition to the funding announced to increase the discretionary housing payment fund, the Government have allocated a further £50 million over the spending review period to support the implementation of these measures. This will provide targeted support to help meet the housing needs of claimants who are affected by the changes, and we will work with local government on its allocation.

The Government intend that the measures they are introducing to adjust local housing allowance rates will act to reduce rents in the private rented sector. To support this, the Government are temporarily widening the discretion of local authorities to make direct payments to the landlord in some circumstances where it will support tenants in retaining or securing a tenancy. The Government will work closely with local authorities to ensure this provision is used only in very specific circumstances where landlords are reducing rents to a level that is affordable for claimants.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 1 December 2010

TREASURY

Fair Pay in the Public Sector

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): Will Hutton has today published the interim report of his review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector. The Government welcome the publication of this report and will give careful consideration to the findings so far. The Government look forward to the outcome of the final report in March and will respond in more detail once they are in receipt of this.

The report is available in the Vote Office and in the Printed Paper Office and it has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Periodic updates of the review's work will be made available through the website located at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_willhutton_fairpay_tor.htm.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Telecoms Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): I am pleased to confirm the agenda items for which BIS has responsibility at the forthcoming Telecommunications Council in Brussels on 3 December 2010. I intend to represent the UK at this Council.

There are four substantive agenda items:

1. Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the first Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP): A Progress Report and Exchange of Views.

This item is an exchange of views on the presidency report and questions for the discussion in relation to the Commission's proposed RSPP (EM 13872/10). This is a proposal for draft legislation which codifies policy and legislative actions necessary for the efficient management of spectrum in the EU up to 2015.

The RSPP is seen by the Commission as a necessary key contributor towards broadband targets, especially for those geographically rural and remote areas that would rely on wireless technology to receive broadband services. This view is generally shared by the Council and the European Parliament. It follows on from the agreements reached on spectrum during the communications framework review.

Progress had been made in debating the draft legislation in the Council but the European Parliament is yet to start deliberations.

The questions tabled for discussion range from how spectrum management contributes to economic growth through issues related to a proposed inventory of spectrum in the EU to the deadlines related to the release of certain spectrum.

As efficient spectrum management is a key component of the Coalition's broadband strategy, the main points of my intervention, taking into account the questions posed, will be:

> to broadly welcome the proposals from the Commission which we do indeed think are important in terms of economic growth within the EU and for the development of mobile broadband services;
>
> to welcome the breadth of the proposal but to caution any legislation mandating the use of spectrum for particular social or community purposes;
>
> to welcome the approach by Commission of ensuring that spectrum for mobile broadband is made available as early as possible but caution on the imposition of rigid timelines that may not be realistic or match national circumstances; and
>
> to wish the Hungarian presidency well in their deliberations on this important dossier with a hope that we might see an agreement before the summer of next year.

2. Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 460/2004 establishing the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) as regards its duration—A Progress Report

Proposal for a Regulation concerning the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)—A Progress Report

These two items are progress reports from the Commission on the current status of the above two recently issued documents. (EM 14322/10)

The first progress report covers the proposal to amend the existing regulation, which established ENISA, in order to extend its duration for 18 months. (The purpose of the extension is to allow the continued operation of ENISA under its current remit whilst the new regulation is negotiated).

The second progress report covers the new regulation that renews and updates the mandate of ENISA.

As these items are progress reports and it is anticipated that no debate will take place, I am not planning an active intervention. However, should there be a debate; my intervention will reaffirm Her Majesty's Government's (HMG) current policies that are detailed in the relevant EM noted above.

3. Cross-fertilisation between the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives "A Digital Agenda for Europe" and "Innovation Union"—Adoption of Council Conclusions

This item covers the adoption of the above Council conclusions. These conclusions are member states' views on the synergies between two of the EU Commission flagship agendas, namely the Innovation Union (EM14035/10) and the European Digital Agenda (EM 9981/10).

Thus, the conclusions contain elements of both flagship agendas, including stressing the need for accelerating the roll out of high-speed broadband which will help drive innovation, as well as recognising the importance of increasing EU spend on ICT research and development.

In the main, HMG welcomes these conclusions, and I intend to make the following comments:

> welcome the adoption of these conclusions and pleased to see joined up thinking in linking together these two critical flagship agendas;

pleased to see that these conclusions recognise the importance of digital technologies as one of the key economic drivers for Europe's future prosperity;

welcome the emphasis on the re-use of public sector data as a potential driver of private-sector led innovation; and

welcome the "active and healthy ageing" EIP pilot that will be jointly developed by DG-INFSO and DG-SANCO (the latter being the part of the Commission that deals with health issues).

4. European Broadband: investing in digitally driven growth—Adoption of Council conclusions

The last substantive item on the agenda is the adoption of the Council conclusions that specifically cover the European broadband strategy (EM 13874/10). This strategy is another component of the Commission's "Broadband Package".

The importance of broadband roll-out is noted under item 1 above and I plan to make the following interventions during the planned discussion on these conclusions:

HMG welcomes the adoption of these conclusions and hope that they will be taken note of by member states and the Commission to aid them in the rollout of super-fast broadband;

The UK recognises the value of these conclusions and will shortly publish a UK-wide broadband strategy, detailing HMG's plan to ensure every UK citizen is able to access broadband; and

The EU broadband objectives are challenging, but by working together, and alongside the private sector, we can achieve them.

I will inform the House of the outcome of the discussion on this, and the preceding item in my post-Council statement.

This concludes the formal substantive business items for Council. However, there are three items that are covered by "Any Other Business".

They are:

A. A report on the state of development of roaming services within the European Union—Presentation by the Commission.

This item will be coupled with a discussion over lunch preceding the Council. These items will be centred around the Commission's recent Interim Report on the State of the Roaming Market (EM11711/10)

During the lunch, Ministers have been asked to consider and discuss three questions. In summary they cover issues relating to stimulating competition, the impact of technological change and the introduction of a price cap on the retail price of data while roaming.

During my lunch time discussion and any debate following the presentation from the Commission, I intend to make the following points:

we look forward to proposals from the Commission on how they intend to deal with the roaming issue when the current regulation expires in June 2012;

we fully support the call by the Commissioner for a functioning single market in mobile roaming services; especially with respect to data (which is of increasing importance for EU citizens); and

we would welcome high-level but detailed discussions between all interested parties on this issue to try—possibly using the same format as the recent meeting on net neutrality—and find a way forward that benefits consumers but also does not undermine competition, investment or innovation in the mobile sector.

B. Internet Governance Forum (IGF)—Briefing by the Commission and the Presidency.

I do not plan an intervention on this item but if the opportunity arises, I will reaffirm HMG's policy lines that:

supports the multi-stakeholder approach on internet governance;

welcomes the agreements reached at the recent ITU plenipotentiary; and

anticipates a positive outcome to a vote in the UN General Assembly later in December to extend the mandate of the IGF for another five years.

C. The next presidency' programme and events—Briefing by the Hungarian delegation

This item is a presentation from the Hungarian delegation on their plans once they assume the presidency of the EU (1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011).

I do not plan an intervention for this item but you may wish to note that my officials are in the final stages of planning a bilateral meeting with Hungarian officials so that we are able to capitalise upon any opportunities that may be presented by Hungary assuming the presidency.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

London Reforms and the Localism Bill

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I am today announcing a new settlement for London which includes a package of measures to be included in the forthcoming localism Bill.

These far reaching proposals include measures which will significantly devolve power to the Greater London Authority, London boroughs and beyond and they will streamline the plethora of agencies in London's public sector landscape. They are based on proposals put forward by the Mayor and London boroughs themselves. We have listened to key players in the capital and responded to their ideas.

The measures include:

The devolution of executive powers over housing investment from the Homes and Communities Agency to the GLA so that there is more decentralised control over housing investment decisions in the capital.

The abolition of the London Development Agency, with its city-wide roles on regeneration and management of European funding to be transferred to the GLA so that the mayor is directly accountable.

New powers for the Mayor of London to create Mayoral Development Corporations to focus regeneration where it is needed most, such as to help secure East London's Olympic legacy, in partnership with London boroughs.

London boroughs will be given greater control over key local planning decisions that affect their local communities. The mayor will only consider the largest planning applications in future.

A more streamlined approach to mayoral strategies and increased powers of scrutiny for the London Assembly over these strategies, including the power to reject final strategies by a two thirds majority.

A new requirement for the GLA Group to publish details of all expenditure over £500 and openness rules will be extended to Transport for London.

These reforms will drive decision making back into the hands of the mayor and locally elected London leaders, streamlining the way London is run and paving the way for further devolution to London boroughs.

CABINET OFFICE

Diamond Jubilee Civic Honours Competitions

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): I am pleased to announce that the Government are today launching UK-wide competitions for a grant of city status and a grant of Lord Mayoralty (or Lord Provostship) to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Local authorities throughout the United Kingdom who believe that their district, borough, town or city deserves consideration for either of these rare honours are invited to apply by the closing date of 27 May 2011.

Entry guidelines have been posted on the Diamond Jubilee section of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website, www.culture.gov.uk. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The document provides guidance on the contents of applications, as was the case for the competitions held for Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, as well as full details on the submission of entries.

In addition, for the first time in such competitions, the entry guidelines specify a standard format for entries. Local authorities are urged to use the standard format, which is intended to limit the costs of entering the competition and to introduce a fair basis for comparison between entries.

The honours will, however, continue to be rare marks of distinction conferred, on ministerial advice, under the royal prerogative, rather than rights to be earned by the meeting of specific criteria. All valid entries will receive individual consideration on their merits and the Government look forward to announcing the results of the competitions in the early months of 2012.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) will today begin payments under the 2010 single payment scheme (SPS). Over the next few days payments totalling over £1 billion are expected to be made to some 80,000 claimants. This represents over 75% of eligible claimants.

Further progress towards the agency's 2010 SPS payment targets—to pay 85% of eligible SPS claimants by the end of December 2010 and to pay 95% of the value of SPS payments by the end of March 2011—is being closely monitored by the RPA oversight board which I chair. Against the background of the additional workload created by the update last year to Rural Land Register and reduced staff numbers, it is clear that meeting those targets represents a significant challenge.

Farmers may be assured that outstanding payments will be made as individual claims are verified. But that will not mean cutting corners: I am determined to bring a renewed focus on accuracy to the administration of the scheme so that legacy issues are addressed once and for all and the agency is then able to deliver a better quality of service to farmers in the medium term. Equally, we need to ensure taxpayers interests are safeguarded by ensuring our actions represent good value for money and further discussions will take place with the National Audit Office to that end.

As we progress through the payment window, I will keep the House informed on the agency's progress towards its targets and any related decisions by the RPA oversight board. At an individual level, the RPA is writing to farmers where it appears unlikely that payment will be made during the course of December.

HEALTH

Stem Cell Transplant Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): As part of the Government's desire to see improved services for NHS patients, the Department asked the NHS Blood and Transplant Authority to lead a review of stem cell transplant services.

The authority duly established the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum, an advisory group of national and international experts, service providers, clinicians, patients and charities which has now reported on its findings. The report, "The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK", contains 20 recommendations on how we can better deliver this type of stem cell technology for the benefit of NHS patients.

The Department welcomes the report. We will now begin work, in collaboration with the NHS, NHS Blood and Transplant and the Anthony Nolan Trust to develop improved partnership working and consider how the findings and recommendations in the report can be best translated into real service improvements.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Local Licensing Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): Today, alongside the publication of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, we are publishing the Government's response to the Rebalancing the Licensing Act consultation which was conducted earlier this year and includes the full analysis of consultation responses. Our response sets out which proposals we will be taking forward from the consultation document, and how; explains why we have decided not to proceed with some proposals; and outlines new proposals that we have introduced in response to suggestions received during the consultation.

The Government believe that local communities should have a greater role in determining local licensing. The package of measures that we are introducing through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill and the additional changes we will make through secondary legislation and guidance will rebalance the Licensing

Act in favour of local communities, ensuring that local residents' views and concerns are heard and considered and they get the type of night-time economy they want.

The measures being introduced will also provide the police and licensing authorities with the tools they need to more effectively address alcohol-related crime and disorder in the night-time economy. Tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder is not something that can just be done centrally These measures will enable issues to be addressed at a local level, with local communities taking greater responsibility for tackling problems in their own areas.

The full Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill is today being published on the Parliament website: http://services.parliament.uk/bills/. The Government response to the Rebalancing the Licensing Act consultation will be available on the Home Office website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/alcohol/rebalancing-consultation and copies will be placed in the House Library.

Policing in the 21st Century

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): Today, alongside the publication of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, we are publishing the Government's response to the "Policing in the 21st Century" consultation, which set out the most radical reforms to policing in at least 50 years, putting the public at the heart of policing.

Directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners are central to our proposals to replace bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability. The Government are confident that Police and Crime Commissioners will make forces truly accountable to the communities they serve, ensuring that resources are properly targeted to where they are needed and giving the public a greater say in measures to reduce crime and improve community safety.

We are also clear that the long held principle of operational independence, where those operating in the office of the constable are able to make independent decisions on how to use their legitimate coercive powers on behalf of the state will continue to remain the cornerstone of the British policing model.

We received approximately 900 responses to the consultation and we are grateful to all those who responded. The response document we are publishing today summarises the views that we received and sets out next steps in implementing our reforms, which include:

replacing existing police authorities with directly elected Police and Crime

Commissioners (PCCs), who will hold forces to account and strengthen the bond between the police and the public;

new police and crime panels to provide important scrutiny of PCC functions, with membership including both top-tier and district councils giving district councils formal involvement in the governance of policing for the first time;

a framework of checks and balances to scrutinise PCCs and a more independent Inspectorate of Constabulary;

strengthening professional discretion, cutting bureaucracy and freeing up police officers' time;

greater collaboration between police forces to increase public protection and save money; and

phasing out the National Policing Improvement Agency and creating a powerful new National Crime Agency to lead the fight against organised crime and strengthen our border security. This will be supported by a clearer framework for local PCCs and their forces, set out in a new strategic policing requirement (in response to some of the feedback we received during the consultation).

We have listened closely to what people have had to say and our final proposals take this in to account. For example, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill that we are also publishing today provides more detail on the powers and duties that PCCs and police and crime panels will have and how PCCs will work with their force and other local providers.

The full Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill is published on the Parliament website. The Government response to the "Policing in the 21st Century" consultation will be available on the Home Office website and will be placed in the House Libraries.

Justice and Home Affairs Pre-Council Statement

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on 2 and 3 December in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and I intend to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council, beginning in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen States), will receive an update from the presidency on the state of play of the Schengen Information System II (SIS II) project.

Next there will be a discussion of the Commission report on the implementation of the Council conclusions on 29 measures for reinforcing the protection of the external borders and combating illegal immigration. The UK has not yet received a copy of the report; however, we expect that the Commission will use this item to inform member states of progress regarding these measures. The measures include: Frontex working arrangements; exchange of relevant information between FRONTEX, other EU agencies and member states; development of the European Surveillance System—EUROSUR; exchange of information on illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and falsification of documents; and solidarity and the integrated management of external borders by member states.

After Mixed Committee the Council will receive an update from the presidency on the progress being made on asylum and legal and illegal migration and seek to ensure that the following four presidencies (Hungary, Poland, Cyprus and Denmark) remain on course to meet the Commission's 2012 deadline for delivery of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The UK Government believe that the challenges that Europe faces on asylum and illegal immigration are better addressed by practical co-operation than by further legislation. We do not consider the adoption of a common EU asylum policy to be right for Britain. But we do believe there are many issues in the area of asylum and migration on which all EU member states have much to gain by working together. We will be active in promoting effective cooperation, and will consider participation in legislative proposals on their merits in consultation with our European partners and relevant EU institutions.

The Council will then receive updates from the Commission on the Mediterranean Office for Youth, the Greek national action plan on asylum and migration and a legal migration conference held on 26 November. The Mediterranean Office for Youth supports circular migration for educational purposes. The UK is not a participant in the Mediterranean Office for Youth, which is restricted to members of the Union for the Mediterranean. The UK considers the Greek national action plan on asylum and migration (the "Greek Action Plan") to be key in increasing the ability of Greece to act as an efficient partner in countering illegal migration. Alongside other EU member states we have offered practical assistance to Greece, however we would like to see the establishment of an effective Commission-led process to ensure co-ordination and prioritisation; avoid duplication of member states' actions; ensure the availability of clear, accessible funding streams to support the action plan; and the setting of clear timescales for action and milestones for progress. The presidency will also present their conclusions following the conference on legal migration.

Over lunch Interior Ministers will be asked to agree a regulation to create an agency for large-scale IT systems in the JHA field. This would be accompanied by a Council decision ensuring full UK participation in the agency, which was a Government priority as the agency will manage a number of existing systems in which we participate (Eurodac and the second generation of the Schengen Information System). While the Government are content with the text as drafted some member states have maintained reserves which will need to be resolved before the Council, in particular concerning the location of the agency. Also during lunch Ministers will discuss alternatives to detaining children for immigration purposes. The UK Government are committed to ending the detention of children in the UK and a review is currently underway to consider how this can be done in a way which protects the welfare of children and ensures that families leave when they have no right to be in the UK. This will be an opportunity to share experience and ideas with other member states who are also dealing with this difficult issue.

After lunch, the Commission will present their draft action plan on combating heavy arms trafficking. Should this plan be endorsed during this Council, the EU will have an integrated approach to combating arms trafficking, and more particularly heavy fire arms.

Next the presidency will present for agreement Council conclusions on itinerant gangs which seek to define the problem of itinerant crime groups and agree an administrative approach to tackle the problem, including increased cross-border co-operation. The Council will also be asked to agree draft Council conclusions on preventing and combating identity related crimes and on identity management.

The Council will be asked to agree negotiating mandates which will authorise the start of negotiations between the EU and the United States, Canada, and Australia for the transfer and use of passenger name records (PNR) to prevent and combat terrorism and other forms of serious cross-border crime. Clear PNR agreements between the EU and Australia, Canada and the US will play a vital role in removing legal uncertainty for air carriers flying to those third countries. It will also help ensure that, where appropriate, PNR data can be shared quickly and securely with all necessary data protection safeguards in place. The Government are content with the proposed negotiating mandates but has yet to take a decision on whether or not to opt in. The Government strongly believe that early publication of an EU PNR Directive covering intra-EU as well as external flights is vital to the safety and security of EU citizens.

Next the EU CT co-ordinator will present a discussion paper to Council on an EU CT strategy which covers transport security, terrorist travel, cyber threats, the external dimension of CT and fighting discrimination and social marginalisation of Muslims.

The UK welcomes the paper as a useful starting point for further policy discussions. The EU CT co-ordinator will also provide an update on progress against the EU action plan on combating terrorism to date.

The presidency will seek agreement on a paper on a system for sharing information on terrorist threat levels in the member states. The UK supports improvements to the information sharing mechanisms on terrorist threat levels at the EU level while maintaining that changes to threat levels remain a member state competence.

The Council will also be asked to reach agreement on a paper recommending proposals to strengthen aviation security following the incident at East Midlands airport. This paper will go jointly to the Transport and JHA Councils on 02 December for agreement. The UK welcomes this report and will press for early, effective and co-ordinated action.

Commissioner Malmström will present her EU Internal Security Communication, which looks to translate the Council's EU internal security strategy into action points and will seek initial views from member states. The text was published on 23 November. The Government are therefore considering the detail of what is proposed and will set out their initial views at the Council.

On the justice day, the Council will be asked to agree the text of the EU directive on human trafficking. In June, the Government made a decision not to opt in to the directive, but to review its position after adoption, at which point the UK could apply to opt in retrospectively. The directive is in its final stages of negotiation; there is a qualified majority in the Council and should the European Parliament also agree the text in December adoption will follow.

The presidency will then seek a general approach on the draft directive on combating sexual exploitation and abuse of children and child pornography. This draft directive aims to update existing EU legislation in the area of combating child sexual exploitation and pornography in line with technological developments such as the use of webcams to bully children into sexual posing (a pornographic performance). The Government are seeking scrutiny clearance to enable the UK to support the presidency in reaching a general approach.

There will be a state of play report on the European Investigation Order (EIO), which is a draft directive aimed at streamlining the system of mutual legal assistance between participating EU member states. The presidency will report progress on negotiations but is not expected to seek agreement on any issues at this time. The Government will take the opportunity to press for further detailed work on the grounds for refusing assistance.

The presidency will also seek a general approach on the right to information in criminal proceedings. This is the second measure in the roadmap to strengthen procedural rights in criminal proceedings. It aims to set common minimum standards and improve the rights of suspects and accused persons by ensuring that they receive information about their rights. The presidency has taken on board the Government's concerns in relation to article 7 of the draft directive. The Government are seeking scrutiny clearance to enable it to agree to the general approach.

The presidency will then seek agreement among participating member states on the regulation implementing enhanced cooperation in the field of law applicable to divorce—Rome III. The European Parliament will adopt its opinion by the end of the year. The UK is not participating in this measure.

The presidency held a seminar on 14 October to discuss issues around resolving child abduction disputes by mediation. At the end of the seminar the presidency produced conclusions aimed at encouraging EU law makers and member states to consider promoting mediation in such cases. The presidency is seeking agreement to these conclusions at the Council.

There will be a discussion on the Commission's communication on "A comprehensive approach on personal data protection in the European Union". The Communication is intended to serve as a basis for further discussions between the Commission, other European institutions and interested parties with a view to developing a new data protection legislative framework. It is anticipated that the Commission will publish a legislative proposal in mid-2011.

The presidency will seek agreement to the adoption of a negotiating mandate for an EU-US Agreement on data protection. The agreement would clarify data protection safeguards for the transatlantic exchange of personal data for law enforcement purposes.

Ministers will then be provided an information point on the outcomes of and proposed follow up to the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council (PPC) (freedom, security and justice) (18-19 November), and the Western Balkans Ministerial Forum (23-24 November). The PPC agreed steps forward on visa liberalisation (the top priority for Russia). They agreed to work on a list of common steps towards negotiations on an EU-Russia visa waiver agreement. This does not directly affect the UK as we are not part of the Schengen visa arrangements. The UK did not attend the Western Balkans Ministerial Forum. Ministers will be updated at the JHA Council.

Ministers will then be presented with a report on the activities of the e-justice working party during the Belgian presidency. The main focus of this work so far has been the development of a European e-justice portal which is a website (launched at the July Informal JHA Council) that acts as a point of access to a range of information on justice matters across the EU.

Over lunch, there will be a discussion about the forthcoming directive, access to a lawyer. This is the third measure on the roadmap to strengthening criminal procedural rights, which is likely to be published in June 2011. The Commission is still in the early stages of drafting the proposal. It is considering provisions on the right to waiver legal advice, consequences of violations, the competence and quality of lawyers and provisions for European arrest warrant proceedings.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 2 December 2010

TREASURY

Tax Rates

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Following decisions announced at the June Budget and the release of retail and consumer prices data for September, the Government have today confirmed 2011-12 rates and thresholds for income tax, national insurance contributions (NICs), and tax credits. The limit for individual savings accounts (ISA) for 2011-12 has also been confirmed.

A note containing this information has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_autumn_updates.htm.

There is a statutory obligation on the Treasury to make an order to replace the existing amounts of income tax rate limits and personal allowances for the following tax year. The 2010 indexation order has been made today and sets out the indexed amounts of income tax rate limits and personal allowances for 2011-12. In the case of the personal allowance and basic rate limit, this order will be over-ridden by the Finance Bill next year that will legislate for the changes announced at Budget 2010.

The relevant regulations and orders for NICs and tax credits will be laid in spring 2011.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

National Address Gazetteer Database

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I would like to inform the House that the Government are today announcing they will bring together publicly owned address information for England and Wales from Ordnance Survey and local authorities to create a "national address gazetteer database", providing one definitive source of accurate spatial address data.

To deliver this, an agreement has been reached to set up a joint venture between Ordnance Survey and the local government group to create a single source of address data. Having just one database will remove duplication and inefficient processes in the public sector and will provide a better quality of information for all users.

The products created from the national address gazetteer database will be made available free at the point of use for all public sector bodies under the centrally funded public sector mapping agreement. Commercial customers will be able to license the data in the same way as they do for the Ordnance Survey and local government products they use today.

The proposal for the national address gazetteer database will be referred to the Office of Fair Trading for third parties to comment. Subject to Office of Fair Trading clearance the database will be developed by April 2011. This will allow the market to review the database before it is released.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Warm Home Discount Scheme

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): As part of the spending review we announced that energy suppliers would be required to spend £250million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million by 2014-15 on assisting vulnerable consumers with their energy bills. I am pleased to announce that this vital support will be delivered through the warm home discount scheme.

The consultation document we have published today sets out how we propose suppliers should be required to help more of their most vulnerable consumers with their energy costs. Our model includes four key areas of support:

We propose that the majority of spend across the four years of the scheme (2011-12 to 2014-15) should be on the core group. These are a well-targeted group of the poorest pensioners who have a high propensity to fuel poverty and a higher risk of excess winter deaths. This section of the model would build on the 2010 energy rebate scheme, a successful data matching pilot between DWP, DECC and the six major energy suppliers that resulted in an £80 rebate being provided to over 200,000 of the poorest pensioner households this year.

While we know the core group have a high propensity to be fuel poor, we also recognise that other groups are at risk of fuel poverty. Our proposals would therefore also ensure some support will be available for other groups of vulnerable consumers through the broader group.

The voluntary agreement between energy suppliers and Government provides real help to people, but it ends in March 2011. We think it is important that there are some arrangements in place to allow suppliers to continue providing these benefits to the customers receiving them for a period of time. However, we believe that the proposals for the core and broader groups will take more people out of fuel poverty as well as providing clearer and more predictable benefits. We therefore propose that these should be transitional arrangements and that suppliers should have to manage this spend down over the scheme period.

Our proposed model also recognises the good work suppliers have been doing through various industry initiatives under the voluntary agreement, and provides room for them to continue funding them. Such activities include working in partnerships to identify vulnerable customers and funding services delivering energy advice to vulnerable customers.

The warm home discount consultation, which sets out these proposals in greater detail, will run until the 14 January 2011 and is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/warmhome/warmhome.aspx

Copies have also been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): I informed the House on 26 July, *Official Report*, columns 65-66WS, of the Government's intention to consult on whether to proceed with work surrounding the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator (OHPA). A subsequent consultation on this issue, entitled: "Fitness to Practise Adjudication for Health Professionals: Assessing different mechanisms for delivery" was launched on 9 August 2010 and ran until 11 October 2010. The Government are grateful to those who responded.

After careful consideration of the responses received, the Government have decided to proceed with the taking of steps to abolish OHPA.

The Government's full report and conclusion on the consultation, containing an analysis of the responses received has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. We shall bring forward primary legislation to enable OHPA's abolition at the next available opportunity.

HOME DEPARTMENT

"Building a Fairer Britain"

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Today the Government are publishing its equality strategy. The strategy sets out our vision for a strong, modern and fair Britain. It is built on two principles of equality—equal treatment and equal opportunity. This means building a society where no one is held back because of who they are, or where they come from.

Our strategy sets out a new approach, not built on bureaucracy but aimed at changing culture and attitudes, tackling the causes of inequality and building a stronger, fairer and more cohesive society where equality is for everyone and is everyone's responsibility. Government cannot and will not do this by dictating from the centre. Instead, our strategy sets out how we will work with business, local communities and citizens to promote good practice, transparency and accountability.

The strategy includes the coalition Government's commitment to implement section 159 of the Equality Act 2010 (positive action in recruitment and promotion) and plans to develop a voluntary approach on gender pay reporting in the private and voluntary sector.

As part of the new approach, the Government Equalities Office will be brought within the Home Office, and will cease to be a separate Department. We expect this to take formal effect from 1 April 2011. GEO will continue to have cross-Government responsibilities but this move will help to embed the work on equalities within the departmental structure in line with the equality strategy's commitment.

Equality is fundamental to this coalition Government. The strategy sets out a new approach to delivering equality, moving away from the identity politics of the past and to an approach that recognises people's individuality. It sets out a new role for Government, promoting equality through transparency and behaviour change and working with businesses, the voluntary sector and wider civil society to create equal opportunities for everyone.

I have placed a copy of the strategy in the House Library and it has been published online at: www.equalities.gov.uk.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Trafficking

The Solicitor-General (Mr Edward Garnier): On Tuesday 30 November 2010 at oral parliamentary questions, my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah) asked me to "explain why the Government did not sign the EU Directive" on human trafficking, *Official Report*, column 661. I responded that we had signed it. The hon. Member raised the matter again as a point of order on 1 December, *Official Report*, column 821. As I made clear in my answer there is more than one instrument.

For the avoidance of doubt and confusion I set out here the UK's position:

There are two European instruments currently in force and one proposal for an instrument.

The EU framework decision on combating trafficking in human beings was adopted by the Council of Ministers in July 2002. Member states had two years to implement the framework decision, including through any legislation. My right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) was the Home Secretary at this time.

The UK signed up to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in March 2007 when the right hon. and noble Lord Reid of Cardowan was Home Secretary. It was ratified in December 2008 and came into force in April 2009 when the former Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith) was Home Secretary.

In July this year the Government decided not to opt in to the draft EU Directive on combating human trafficking; a different instrument. If the Government conclude later that the directive would help us fight human trafficking, we can apply to opt in after it has been adopted. Negotiations on the text are at an advanced stage.

TRANSPORT

Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I will be attending the second Transport Council of the Belgian presidency which will take place in Brussels on 2 December.

The Commission and presidency will present a report on possible measures to improve aviation security. The UK welcomes this report and will press for early, effective and co-ordinated action by member states.

There will also be a debate on the draft directive on cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety. The presidency intends to reach a conclusion on progress towards a political agreement. We hope that the conclusion confirms the accepted view that political agreement can only be achieved once the UK and Ireland have completed parliamentary scrutiny and made their opt-in decisions.

There will be a progress report and policy debate on the legislative proposal to recast the first rail package, establishing a single European railway area, which was presented to the Council in October.

A progress report will be considered on work towards a Council and European Parliament decision on access to the public regulated service of the Galileo satellite navigation system. I will press for greater clarity on the estimated infrastructure and operational costs as well as an indication from the Commission on whether it proposes to charge member states for access to the public regulated service. This will help the Government determine their position on use of this service. The Government continue to oppose increasing the budget for completion of the Galileo system.

The Council will be asked to adopt conclusions, on the integration of water-borne transport into the EU logistics chain. These conclusions follow the informal meeting of EU Transport Ministers held in Antwerp in September. We welcome these conclusions on this important sector.

The Council will also be asked to adopt conclusions following the Commission's recent communication entitled "Towards a European road safety area: policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020". As the conclusions set out that any new EU legislation must be proportionate and supported by robust impact assessments, I intend to support their adoption.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Programmes for Disability-related Barriers to Work

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): The Government are today announcing an independent review of the support the Government provide to disabled people who want to work.

Since taking office in May 2010, the coalition Government have set out an ambitious programme of employment support to ensure that people disadvantaged in the labour market will get the help they need to find and keep jobs. Our aim is that Government programmes should support more disabled people than ever before into sustainable employment.

The Department will introduce the Work programme —an integrated package of support providing personalised help to a broad range of customers. The Work programme will cater for a wide range of disabled people. The Government recognise that many customers have complex disability-related barriers and may require more specialist support. In October 2010, the Government launched Work Choice—a new programme of support designed to help customers with more complex disability-related barriers find and sustain work. The Work programme and Work Choice are an important stride forward in providing simple, effective customer service that draws on the best evidence about what works. A range of other, specialist programmes currently sit alongside the Work programme and Work Choice—Remploy, residential training colleges and access to work. All provide valued support for disabled people. This review is designed to ensure there is a cohesive set of measures in place which meet the needs of disabled people in sustaining employment.

In the current fiscal climate it is more important than ever that the funding available for employment support is used more effectively. Decisions on the use of the available funding should draw on robust evidence about what works in the modern labour market and on how the support meets the needs of individual disabled people. In this context, the review will examine DWP's current employment support for people with severe disability-related barriers to work, and make recommendations about how this can be further improved to provide better value for money over the life of this Parliament.

To support this review I have today published a call for evidence to inform the review. This provides an opportunity for people and organisations to submit evidence that will inform the development of our future strategy. This call for evidence will close on 28 February 2011. I expect to publish the outcome of the review by summer 2011.

The review will be conducted by Liz Sayce, chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR.

The terms of reference for the review and the call for evidence are available on the Department's website at: http://dwp.gov.uk/consultations/. They are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 3 December 2010

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 17 November 2010. The following items were discussed:

Directive and Regulation on VAT treatment of insurance and financial services

ECOFIN held an orientation debate on proposals to modernise the VAT exemption for financial services, reflecting market developments over the last 30 years. The Council agreed that discussions would continue at working group level, taking account of the views expressed by delegations.

Administrative Co-operation in the field of taxation

The presidency gave an update on negotiations on this directive, which aims to improve arrangements for exchange of information and bring the EU into line with OECD standards. The Council agreed that they would aim to reach political agreement on this issue at their December meeting.

Implementation of the 2009 budget

ECOFIN took note of the presentation by the Court of Auditors on its annual report on the management of the EU's general budget. The Council called on all parties involved in the management of the EU budget to persist in their efforts to improve controls and to reduce margins of error in budgetary payments. The Government continued to press the case for value for money in the EU budget. The Council is expected to adopt the recommendation to discharge the budget at its meeting in February.

Follow-up to October European Council

The Council took note of the deliberations of the European Council. Ahead of the December ECOFIN, officials will prepare a report on the work of the economic taskforce. They will also take forward work on bank levies and on the how the impact of pension reforms should be accounted for in the implementation of the EU's stability and growth pact.

Follow-up to the G20 Seoul Summit on 11-12 November

The Council discussed the follow-up to the G20 summit, including as regards the issues of macroeconomic imbalances and the reform of financial regulations.

Financing of measures against climate change

ECOFIN had a high-level discussion on the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Finance report, fast-start finance, and the green fund. The Council will further consider this issue at the December ECOFIN.

Pensions

The Council adopted conclusions on a report on pensions. The Government support this report, which emphasises the importance of fiscal sustainability and extending working lives.

EU statistics

The Council adopted conclusions on the annual report on EU statistics, which reviewed the progress made on statistical governance.

Other business

a) Baltic Sea Strategy

The Council took note of a presentation by the President of the European Investment Bank regarding the EIB's contribution to the EU's strategy for the Baltic sea region. The Government welcome the EIB's work in the region, and support its intentions to extend the programme to the Danube region.

b) Representation of the Council at the G20 ministerial meetings

The Council discussed EU representation at G20 ministerial meetings. The Government do not see a need to change the existing arrangements, whereby the EU presidency represents the EU and the Commission is an observer.

c) Credit Rating Agencies

At the UK's request, a statement was laid in the minutes of the Council outlining remaining concerns with an amending regulation for credit rating agencies. The Council took note of concerns expressed.

Meeting of the EU and EFTA Ministers of Finance and Economy

Ministers held a meeting with their European Free Trade Area counterparts. The meeting focused on the consolidation of Government budgets as well as on financial market regulation and supervision.

An extra Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 28 November 2010.

Ministers unanimously agreed to grant financial assistance, in principle, in response to the Irish authorities' request, in order to safeguard financial stability in the euro area and the EU as a whole.

Euro-area and EU financial support will be provided on the basis of a programme which has been negotiated with the Irish authorities by the Commission and the International Monetary Fund, in liaison with the European Central Bank.

The financial package of the programme will cover financing needs up to €85 billion, including €10 billion for immediate recapitalisation measures, €25 billion on a contingency basis for banking system supports, and €50 billion covering budget financing needs. Half of the banking support measures (€17½ billion) will be financed by an Irish contribution through the Treasury cash buffer and investments of the National Pension Reserve Fund. The remainder of the overall package should be shared equally (€ 22½ billion each) among:

the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM);

the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) together with bilateral loans from the UK, Denmark and Sweden; and

the IMF.

In principle, the UK's bilateral loan is for £3¼ billion, and the rate of interest on the loan will be similar to the rates levied by the IMF and the euro area.

The main elements of policy conditionality will be enshrined in Council decisions to be formally adopted at the ECOFIN Council on 7 December.

The president of the Eurogroup made it clear that the UK will not be part of the permanent bail-out mechanism, and that the European financial stability mechanism, agreed under the previous Government in May, and of which we are part, will cease to exist when that permanent eurozone mechanism is put in place.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Yorkshire Forward

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): I have decided to appoint Julie Kenny as the chair of Yorkshire Forward.

Julie will commence as chair designate, to ensure continuity of leadership from 6 December 2010 and take up post as chair from 14 December 2010.

The appointment will be until the close of Yorkshire Forward.

The appointment has been made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice.

Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): The EU Competitiveness Council took place in Brussels on 25 and 26 November 2010. The Minister of State for Universities and Science represented the UK on research and innovation items and Andy Lebrecht, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU represented the UK on industry, internal market and space items when a Minister was not in attendance. A summary of the discussions follows.

Industrial, Internal Market and AOB Items

There was a ministerial debate on the recent Commission communication setting out its new integrated EU industrial policy ahead of the adoption of Council conclusions at the December Competitiveness Council. The document received broad support and the majority of member states, including the UK, mentioned the importance of SMEs. The UK emphasised the need for a strong single market, smart regulation, keeping open markets, ensuring sectoral initiatives focus on areas where the EU can add value and the importance of the whole supply chain.

On green vehicles, the Commission presented their report on implementation of the clean and energy efficient vehicles strategy, and the presidency introduced a joint declaration on electro mobility. Nine member state signatories felt this should be given priority in research and development. On the EU patent some member states felt the enhanced co-operation procedure under the Lisbon treaty should be pursued to make further progress as member states were unable unanimously to agree to a language regime. The presidency said the issue would be discussed again as a full agenda item at the December Competitiveness Council.

Space

A resolution was agreed setting out priorities for future European work on space policy. There was broad agreement that the space sector could offer significant economic benefits. Ministers noted the importance of the global monitoring for environment and security (GMES) initiative and Galileo as two priority European space programmes. A number of member states expressed concern with Galileo's budgetary situation. The UK also insisted the Commission should improve its management of the Galileo programme and emphasised the importance of completing the Galileo mid-term review without delay.

The role of space in Europe and the balance of responsibilities between the EU and the European Space Agency (ESA) were discussed. ESA said that this was an issue they and the Commission were currently reflecting on. Hungary said it would discuss the EU-ESA relationship under its EU presidency in the first half of 2011.

Innovation

The Competitiveness Council agreed conclusions reacting to the Commission's EU2020 flagship communication, Innovation Union (the Commission's recent strategy for improving Europe's capacity to innovate).

Ministers debated how to overcome barriers to innovation in Europe. The UK offered strong support for the Commission's European innovation partnerships concept, but felt access to finance for innovation was a problem. It believed EU funding could be used to augment existing national pre-commercial procurement schemes. The UK also pointed to problems relating to the implementation of the EU clinical trials directive which it saw as hampering innovation in the pharmaceuticals sector.

European Research Area

The Competitiveness Council adopted conclusions on joint programming (the voluntary process of co-ordinating national research programmes in certain scientific fields). The conclusions welcomed a biennial report on joint programming and endorsed voluntary guidelines for the process. One change was made to the draft and sent to Council at the request of the presidency—a reference to the importance of work on biomarkers in the pilot joint programming initiative on neurodegenerative diseases was weakened. The presidency updated the Council on recent efforts to strengthen the European research area and on the work of the strategic forum for international science and technology co-operation.

7th Framework Programme (FP7)

Ministers discussed a presentation on the interim evaluation of the EU's current R&D funding programme over lunch. Areas considered for improvement in the review included low female participation rates, underperformance of many newer EU member states and low business participation rates. The interim review recommended that the framework programme should: be amended to help develop Europe's innovation capacity and the research base; enhance large-scale research facilities; maintain its current level of funding for future programmes; be radically simplified; not include any new types of funding instrument; be linked better to the structural funds; and be opened up more strategically to non-EU countries.

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

The Commission set out its proposals for reforming the governance of the ITER programme, and called for voting in the governing board to be amended so that vote weights were linked directly to financial contribution. The Commission also noted the failure of the Council and European Parliament to reach an agreement on meeting the ITER funding shortfall in 2012-13. The Commissioner hoped agreement would be reached shortly. The UK argued in its intervention on Innovation Union that ITER procurement contracts needed to be more accessible for SMEs.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): The coalition Government are clear that there should be no unexpected council tax revaluation rises in the next five years. We recently announced that we would therefore cancel council tax revaluation due in England in 2015 and confirmed the Government would not carry out revaluation in England during the lifetime of this Parliament. It is right that Welsh taxpayers have the same protection.

I am therefore pleased to announce that the Government intend to include in the forthcoming localism Bill the necessary provisions to:

cancel the legal requirement for a council tax revaluation in Wales that was due to take place in 2015;

devolve the power to Welsh Assembly Government Ministers to decide the timing of council tax revaluations in Wales, rather than being bound to the timetable set out in legislation passed following the Local Government Act 2003.

As a result of the last council tax revaluation in Wales in 2005, four times as many homes moved up one or more council tax bands than moved down. Two-thirds of the net rises were amongst homes originally in bands A to C. We believe this hit the less well-off households the hardest.

This Government want to see Welsh taxpayers get the same certainty about revaluation as English taxpayers. It will be a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government to decide whether they will now issue the same reassurances to Welsh taxpayers as have been given to English taxpayers. No revaluation will now take place unless the Welsh Assembly Government Minister determines otherwise.

DEFENCE

Operational Logistics Information Capability (Improvements)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has signed an 11-year contract with Boeing Defence UK (BDUK) for the future delivery of operationally essential logistics information across defence.

The new contractual arrangement has been developed under the umbrella of the Future Logistics Information Services (FLIS) project, and represents a step-change improvement to the quality of logistics information available to the armed forces. Logistic support is vital across the full range of military tasks, including those in support of military operations in Afghanistan.

At present, logistics information is delivered by a complex set of contractual arrangements, supported by an MOD in-house team. Those posts will transfer to BDUK under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. Under FLIS, BDUK have been appointed as the single incentivised contractor, at a cost of £800 million over 11 years, to deliver MOD's logistics information capability. FLIS is a modern commercial arrangement with BDUK as the single supplier responsible for delivery of current systems in a more effective and financially efficient manner. BDUK will manage a number of sub-contractors, many of whom are currently prime suppliers to MOD.

The new arrangement will ensure the long-term delivery of operationally essential logistics information to both MOD and industry and the significant financial efficiencies will contribute to the Government's strategic deficit reduction programme, without reducing operational capability.

This new contract with BDUK provides an effective framework which will improve the delivery of today's logistics information needs, and enable future changes to be made as a result of the strategic defence and security review to reflect the changing needs of defence.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forced Marriage and Learning Disabilities (Practice Guidelines)

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): To mark the International Day of Disabled Persons today, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, the Forced Marriage Unit (a joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office unit) launches multi-agency practice guidelines for supporting people with learning disabilities.

The guidelines have been developed to assist frontline professionals, such as the police, children and adults social care services, education and health professionals, care workers, charities and volunteers handling cases of forced marriage involving people with learning disabilities. It covers issues relating to a person's capacity to consent and the use of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to establish this.

The document draws on research carried out by the Ann Craft Trust in partnership with the Judith Trust, and statistics on reports to the Forced Marriage Unit's helpline. It complements the "Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage" published by the FMU last year and should be read in conjunction with these.

The guidelines can be downloaded from on the Forced Marriage Unit's webpage at: www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage and hard copies will be placed in House Libraries.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Agenda)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 6 December 2010 in Brussels. I will represent the UK, except for the agenda item on the pregnant workers directive where the UK will be represented by the

Minister responsible for employment relations, consumer and postal affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey).

There will be two orientation debates. The first is on the pregnant workers directive, which is being renegotiated in a co-decision procedure between the Council and the European Parliament. As the European Parliament's position goes much further than the Commission's original proposal, and would require 20 weeks' fully paid maternity leave, two weeks' paternity leave and 20 weeks' adoption leave, the UK will not agree to these changes.

The second is on retirement pensions, in particular maintaining a "living standard to a reasonable degree" and our reaction to the Commission's Green Paper. This will include the presentation of a joint report from the Social Protection (SPC) and Economic Policy Committee (EPC) on pensions. The UK will stress the need to ensure that pensioners have the income to live with dignity in retirement and that each member state should find its own balance for public pensions.

There will be an exchange of views on the Employment Policies in Europe 2020 and the European Semester. This will include information from the Commission and presidency on the EU 2020 flagship projects "New Skills and Jobs" and "Youth on the Move", approval of two Employment Committee (EMCO) opinions, on employment and climate change and an initial country analysis of the draft national reform programmes, and approval of a joint EMCO-SPC opinion on the Joint Assessment Framework and the Employment Monitor. The UK will stress how important it is that employment is at the heart of the Europe2020 strategy and that there must be a robust methodology for assessments, but it is important to recognise that this should not lead to policy prescriptions in an area that is primarily member state competence.

There will be a discussion of the general approach to the European Year of Active Ageing 2012 which proposes to promote active ageing and to do more to mobilise the potential of the rapidly growing population in their late 50s and above.

There will be a progress report on the directive on equal treatment where some progress has been made under the Belgian presidency. The Commission will also present its joint report with the SPC on the social dimension of the crisis.

The Commission will present the biannual report on social services of general interest which annexes a voluntary framework that was developed collaboratively with member states and stakeholders. The report is an overview of the initiatives implemented to guarantee and assess the quality of social services.

Ministers will consider a number of Council conclusions. There are two sets on gender; one on the implementation of the strategy on equality between women and men, and one on the fight against inequalities in salaries between women and men. There are also conclusions on the fight against poverty and social exclusion, employment policy for the low carbon economy, the impact of the ageing workforce, adequate and sustainable pensions, the social dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy and social services of general interest.

Under any other business, there will be information from the Commission on the New Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the presidency will provide information on the second Euromed conference, the third conference of Asia-Europe meeting (ASEM), conclusions of the 5th Report on Economic, Social and Territorial cohesion, and the Equality summit. There will also be information on various conferences under the Belgian presidency and the Hungarian delegation will outline the programme and events for their forthcoming presidency.

Petition

Monday 22 November 2010

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Kurds (Human Rights)

The Petition of the people of Croydon and its environs,

Declares that ethnic Kurds in Kurdistan do not receive the human rights that they are entitled to expect.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to liaise with its international partners in the European Union and farther afield to lobby for improved human rights for Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 24 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 347.*]*

[P000777]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

The EU, with UK support, has made it clear to the Iranian, Iraqi, Syrian and Turkish authorities that we are deeply concerned by the infringement of the rights of Kurds, including those of journalists, politicians, trade unionists and students. The EU presidency, on behalf of all EU member states, has repeatedly expressed concern about the persecution of Kurdish ethnic minorities and drawn attention to their plight.

The UK remains committed to holding the authorities of these countries to account over the treatment of Kurds and other ethnic minorities and raise these concerns with them at every appropriate opportunity. We also remind all four countries of their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (particularly articles 26 and 27) on a regular basis.

Petition

Thursday 2 December 2010

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Factory Farming

The Petition of residents of the Coventry South constituency,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that animals in British factory farms are pumped full of protein to speed up their growth; notes that soy is a major source of protein; further notes that, in order to produce enough protein, precious habitats like rainforests are cleared in South America to make way for vast soy plantations; and further declares that this increases climate changing gases in the atmosphere, damages the Earth's free life-support systems, which provide us with clean water, healthy soil and air to breathe, forces small farmers off their land, making them unable to grow food for their families, and fails UK farmers, leaving them vulnerable to fluctuating commodity prices.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to shift subsidies away from factory farming, to support farmers to grow their own animal feed and to ensure supermarkets offer fair deals to everyone.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Jim Cunningham, Official Report*, 10 November 2010; Vol. 518, c. 388.]

[P000866]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government are committed to supporting a sustainable future for UK farmers including those in our meat and dairy sectors. DEFRA's structural reform priorities of:

support for British farming and the encouragement of sustainable food production;

enhancing the environment and biodiversity to improve quality of life; and,

support for a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to climate change put this support at the forefront of what the Department does.

We are committing significant resources at a time of budgetary restraint to improve our understanding of the knowledge base for sustainability. For example, the Government are currently co-funding research with the livestock industry on what happens when home grown legumes replace soya in pig diets and on an analysis of nutrition regimes for ruminants to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs).

In partnership with the devolved Administrations, DEFRA has committed £12.6 millions into research to improve our understanding of GHG emissions from farms across the UK. And the Government are working with 30 countries in the Global Research Alliance to collaborate on research on agricultural GHG emissions reductions including from livestock.

In addition, the Technology Strategy Board, in conjunction with DEFRA and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, is currently planning a call of up to £15 million for business-led, applied research projects that will help to deliver a sustainable future supply of protein for the UK.

The Government are committed to tackling the deforestation that has accompanied soya consumption, while recognising that soya production and consumption is not all about feeding it to livestock. In fact, two thirds of all manufactured food products for human consumption contain derivatives or ingredients made from soya as do many cosmetics. Soya oil production, of which soya meal for livestock feeding is a co-product, is also a valuable source of energy as a biofuel. So we are working closely with our EU and international partners, particularly Brazil, to tackle the drivers of deforestation rather than soya farming per se. And to tackle illegal logging, which destroys forests and biodiversity, contributes to carbon dioxide emissions, and costs billions of pounds in lost revenue, with the biggest impact being on the poorest communities in the poorest countries.

We made progress at the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya recently, not only in agreeing targets for reducing the loss of habitats, including forests, and tackling forest degradation, but also on the linkages between climate change and biodiversity, and we need to build on this progress at Cancun.

The Government announced as part of the Spending Review that we will provide £2.9 billion towards tackling international climate change and a significant proportion of this will be used for addressing forestry issues. This meets, and goes beyond, the commitments the UK made at Copenhagen.

All of which activity, and the significant resource that the Government are making available, points to the importance we attach to the sustainability of UK food and farming. The complex matrix of issues that define livestock farming's contribution to our economy, biodiversity, landscapes, food security, and the viability of rural communities, will be shaped by the investments in research today that will underpin livestock farming's sustainability in the future.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 22 November 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Daylight Saving Bill

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what recent representations he has received on the potential effects of the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill on Northern Ireland; [25292]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill on Northern Ireland. [25293]

Mr Paterson: I have not received any representations on this matter, nor have I made any assessment on its potential effect as the text of this private Member's Bill has not yet been published. The summary of the Bill as presented at First Reading suggests that its subject matter is devolved to Northern Ireland Ministers.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24938]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available for the years preceding the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has no contract with Post Office Ltd.

The Department has three contracts/agreements with Royal Mail:

1. A ministerial bag delivery service. Since 12 April, this service has cost £363.27.

2. A freepost facility on a pay-per-use basis. There has been no expenditure on this facility since devolution.

3. A contract existed with Royal Mail specifically for the delivery of candidates' mailings in Northern Ireland during the recent parliamentary election. The total cost of the service was £682,948.33. The costs were met from the Consolidated Fund and were within the limits approved by HM Treasury.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24939]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not support any direct services that could be provided by the Post Office. The Department continues to keep the use of all suppliers under review.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25479]

Mr Swire: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available for the period preceding the completion of devolution on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010, the Department has incurred no expenditure on press cutting services.

Universities: Fees and Charges

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects of the proposed rise in the cap on university tuition fees on students from Northern Ireland wishing to study in England. [25294]

Mr Paterson: I have not had any such discussions, but I would be happy to consider doing so if requested by Northern Ireland Ministers or other interested parties.

SCOTLAND

Constituencies

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's policy is on retaining local public inquiries as part of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's process of determining Scottish parliamentary constituency and regional list boundaries. [25924]

David Mundell: The Government have no plans to amend Scottish Parliament boundary review policy at this stage.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24940]

David Mundell: None. The Scotland Office has ongoing contracts with the Post Office for the delivery of mail between its offices in London and Edinburgh and is only charged for what is used.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24941]

David Mundell: There are no Scotland Office services that require to use the Post Office network.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25477]

David Mundell: In each of the last 12 months the Scotland Office spent £830.00 on press cuttings.

Post Office

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the expansion of services at local post offices in Scotland. [25298]

Michael Moore: I recently met with representatives of the Royal Mail Group when we discussed a range of issues including the Post Office network.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss the operation of Post Office services. [25299]

Michael Moore: I have regular exchanges with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues. The Government are committed to a stable and sustainable post office network and through the Post Office Bill we will be putting the Post Office on a more secure financial footing.

Public Sector: Manpower

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the likely reduction in the number of jobs in the public sector in each constituency in Scotland in each of the next five years. [24782]

Michael Moore: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility published their employment forecasts for the whole of the UK on 30 June 2010. Based on the June 2010 Budget, in three years time public sector employment will be 150,000 higher compared to the forecast based on the March 2010 Budget, and total employment is forecast to rise each year over the next five years. Latest figures for Scotland show that employment is rising but the Government cannot be complacent. This is why the Government will continue to take decisive action to support the rebalancing of the economy, so the private sector will carry on to drive the recovery as the necessary spending reductions take effect.

Visits Abroad

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 658W, on visits abroad, whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have visited Malawi in the last 12 months. [25796]

Michael Moore: No *(a)* Ministers or *(b)* officials of the Scotland Office have visited Malawi in the last 12 months.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research she has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the agricultural sector. [24663]

Mr Paice: Over the past 10 years DEFRA has commissioned and evaluated research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in bacteria in farmed livestock, spending more than £4.5 million over the last five years. A further £1 million has been used to commission research on AMR in companion animals and horses.

DEFRA's AMR research programme is focused on five main areas, all of relevance to agriculture:

Developing appropriate tools for AMR detection and characterisation;

Investigation of how mutations/acquired resistance develop and are transferred;

Qualitative risk assessments (including the potential risks to both humans and animals of AMR in agriculture);

Spread/transmission of AMR genes and/or host bacteria, and;

Options for prevention and control of AMR.

In addition to the research commissioned directly by DEFRA, the Department also evaluates the impact on policy of research commissioned by other funders in the UK and further afield. The evaluation of such research is primarily performed by the DEFRA Antimicrobial Resistance Co-ordination Group.

Further detail on current and completed DEFRA AMR research projects is available on the DEFRA website.

Agriculture: Antibiotics

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in farming. [24661]

Mr Paice: The use of antimicrobials, including antibiotics, as growth promoters is banned in Europe.

Those growth promoters containing antimicrobials used in human medicines were banned following a decision in 1999. The ban of the remaining antimicrobial growth promoters was done on a precautionary basis and was phased in over a number of years with the final compounds being withdrawn on 1 January 2006.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has assessed the merits of regulating the use of antibiotics in farming. [24662]

Mr Paice: In the United Kingdom, antimicrobials are available to farmers only following their prescription by a veterinary surgeon. This provision is in the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (2009) (SI 2009 No. 2297).

It is the responsibility of the prescribing veterinary surgeon to determine the most appropriate medicine following diagnosis or clinical assessment.

Further regulation of antimicrobials used in farmed animal production may be considered if new evidence emerges to demonstrate that either human or animal health was likely to be compromised by their use. At the present time this is not the case in the United Kingdom.

The DEFRA Antimicrobial Resistance Co-ordination Group considers all new evidence as it emerges.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* farmers of resolving mapping issues in relation to claims for Single Farm Payments in each of the last three years. [23726]

Mr Paice: The rural land register (RLR) is our spatial database maintained by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and used to validate farm subsidy payments, primarily the single payment scheme (SPS) but also schemes under the Rural Development Programme for England. It is not possible to split the costs associated with maintaining the RLR for each scheme. The operational cost of maintaining the RLR in relation to the last three SPS scheme years is as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2007-08	2.913
2008-09	2.891
2009-10	3.744

Notes:
1. The financial years broadly correspond to SPS years 2007, 2008 and 2009.
2. Costs for SPS year 2010 are not shown as this year's work is unfinished.

The costs were unusually high in 2009-10 owing to RPA undertaking a major exercise with the RLR where some 2.4 million land parcels were updated. Additional project costs associated with the update, including some significant remapping, amounted to a further £11.649 million.

RPA is not able to estimate costs incurred by individual farmers as they vary with each business. It should be noted that participation in the SPS and any mapping needed to support scheme claims is voluntary.

Agriculture: Sustainable Development

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will hold a conference on sustainable agriculture, food security and levels of food production in order to inform the development of her Department's policies on these matters. [25333]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* The Department has just published its Business Plan which sets out DEFRA's priorities, including helping to ensure a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food. Our Business Plan sets out the actions the Department will take relating to sustainable agriculture, food security and food production. DEFRA Ministers and officials also regularly meet those with an interest in the sustainability of our food system.

In addition, I have assured the House of the willingness of either the Secretary of State or myself to participate in a stakeholder-convened conference to examine the current state of sustainability in our livestock industry, should a suitable event be organised in 2011.

Carbon Emissions: Business

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration she has given to bringing forward proposals for mandatory reporting of carbon dioxide emissions by listed companies. [24243]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Cotton

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will oppose the continuation of EU cotton subsidies. [25527]

Mr Paice: I believe that the time has come for the last remaining direct support to the EU cotton sector to be de-coupled and the UK will be pursuing this end as part of our negotiating position in the forthcoming CAP Reform round.

Dairy Farming

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance her Department provides to dairy farmers. [24672]

Mr Paice: I chair the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, which enables dairy farmers to discuss key issues with processors and their customers. I am reinvigorating the Forum, to enable the dairy supply chain as a whole to address the issues facing it and reverse the UK's dairy trade deficit.

We are seeking a positive outcome from the EU High Level Group on Milk so that dairy farmers can be competitive within a properly functioning market.

Last year we paid the Dairy Fund in addition to the Single Farm Payment, and Rural Development Programme funding is available to support innovation.

More broadly, we are introducing the Grocery Code Adjudicator to enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice to prevent large retailers from transferring excessive risks or unexpected costs onto their suppliers.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for her Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25542]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to ensuring that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs. DEFRA's Structural Reform Plan states that we will introduce guidance on this by January 2011.

To support this we are developing a series of Government Buying Standards for food that encourage the procurement of food that meets British or equivalent production standards, reduce the environmental impacts of food and catering services, and support a healthy balanced diet.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations she plans to *(a)* repeal and *(b)* amend in the next five years. [23082]

Mr Paice: At present, it is too early to project how many regulations will be repealed or amended over the course of the next five years.

However, as part of the pipeline review of legislation inherited from the previous Administration, much of which is well advanced, my Department has identified four proposed regulations to be removed. Those removed are: waste controls regulations; rabies order; sewage sludge regulations; and private water supplies regulations.

I have recently announced the appointment of a taskforce on farming regulation as well as a review of waste regulation. Among other things, these reviews will consider how the burden of regulation may be reduced. Such savings may be fed into the One-in, One-out process as "OUTs". Generally, my Department will continue to work to identify further potential "OUTs" for One-in, One-out.

The Government's regulatory Forward Programme is due to be published later this year which will provide details of all forthcoming regulation.

Food Northwest

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to take steps to ensure that Food Northwest continues to receive support following the abolition of the North West Regional Development Agency. [24762]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to rebalancing the economy towards the private sector as well as renewing and strengthening local economies and has paved the way for the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The Government are working closely with all the regional development agencies to ensure an orderly transition to the new delivery structure.

The LEPs' main goal will be to drive sustainable private sector growth and job creation, addressing local economic priorities. We also want these Partnerships to be locally driven, and we would encourage Food Northwest to engage proactively in the development of their local partnerships to ensure they understand how farming and the food industry contribute to the local economy.

Although there is no core funding from Government for LEPs, we have created a new £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund which will operate over the next three years. This fund is open to bids from public-private partnerships, including, but not exclusively, the new LEPs and private bodies.

Food: Labelling

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* imported and *(b)* domestic (i) beef, (ii) sheep and lamb, (iii) goat and kid and (iv) chicken which is (A) labelled in respect of the method of slaughter and (B) not so labelled at the point of sale. [25168]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 19 November 2010]*: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA as there is no statutory obligation to indicate the method of slaughter on meat labels.

Food: Waste

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research her Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on levels of food waste of supermarket special offers. [25069]

Richard Benyon: To date neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), our key delivery body on waste, have undertaken research on the effects on levels of food waste of supermarket special offers.

However, wider research on food waste by WRAP indicates that a significant percentage of consumers (72%) believe supermarket promotions may contribute to the amount of food they throw away.

WRAP has just initiated research to understand which promotions are being used by retailers on a range of fresh products, and to determine the impact of such promotions on both supply chain and household food waste.

WRAP has been working with retailers to encourage the use of alternative promotions for perishable foods, to enable consumers to continue to take advantage of promotions but avoid buying more food than they might need or be able to use.

Forestry Commission: Land

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent from the public purse in each forest district on biodiversity protection and enhancement on Forestry Commission-managed land in England in each year between 2005 and 2010 to date. [22973]

Mr Paice: While all sustainable forest management can benefit biodiversity, the Forestry Commission has spent the money shown in the following table specifically for the benefit of biodiversity.

	Financial year (April-March)					
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*[1]2010*
Sherwood	164,391	271,184	246,206	284,014	242,422	117,345
East Anglia	204,394	254,077	334,322	275,848	237,370	119,185
Northants	171,876	240,638	299,384	199,944	179,405	51,977

	Financial year (April-March)					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	[1]2010
North-east England	128,955	609,523	549,469	558,360	260,785	78,412
North-west England	322,989	309,000	304,592	436,399	586,158	280,055
North York moors	116,337	145,608	141,708	107,167	44,264	133,470
South-east England	163,108	282,610	306,431	350,481	309,980	139,865
New Forest	1,296,457	1,602,096	1,047,303	1,399,758	1,616,074	1,090,427
West midlands	106,683	192,573	135,225	197,774	360,257	133,246
Peninsula	160,540	328,001	299,493	86,825	64,006	44,530
Forest of Dean	182,372	224,826	194,072	176,456	172,739	127,528
Bedgbury project	—	—	—	80,760	94,704	—
Westonbirt	—	—	—	—	—	232,579
Fee head office	655,746	324,978	13,135	302,438	618,863	420,482
	3,673,847	4,785,114	3,871,339	4,456,223	4,787,026	2,969,101

[1] April to October

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 62W, on genetically modified organisms: food, when she expects the European Commission report on the operation of the EU Legislation on the release of genetically modified (GM) organisms and the marketing of GM food and feed products to be published. [24633]

Mr Paice: The Commission is expected to issue its reports on the reviews of the operation of the EU legislation on the release of genetically modified (GM) organisms and the marketing of GM food and feed products (Directive 2001/18/EC and Regulation (EC) 1829/2003) before the end of 2010.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to establish a low-level threshold for the presence of genetically-modified events in imported third country feed material. [25269]

Mr Paice: The European Commission has recently tabled a proposal to harmonise the sampling and detection of unauthorised GM material in imported animal feed. The Commission proposes 0.1% as the lowest level at which genetically modified (GM) material can reliably be detected after allowing for technically unavoidable uncertainties in methods of sampling and analysis. Analytical results that did not exceed 0.1% would be treated as equivalent to zero for enforcement purposes.

The proposal would apply only in relation to unauthorised GM organisms or derived material for which:

> a valid application has already been made for EU marketing approval, and for which there is a validated method of quantitative analysis; or
>
> (after 25 April 2012) there was an EU marketing approval which had expired, and for which a method of quantitative analysis had been validated.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is the lead Government Department on this matter but is working closely with DEFRA given our strong shared interest. The FSA has consulted on the proposal and the Government will now determine what the UK position should be. An EU vote on the proposal is not expected before January 2011.

Livestock: Burial

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of her Department's rules on burial grounds for animals. [25545]

Mr Paice: The Animal By-products (ABP) Regulation which was recently reviewed and revised by the EU will maintain the ban on burial of fallen stock on farm in most circumstances. There is therefore no realistic possibility in the short term of the ban being lifted. However, there are a number of things we can do both in the short and longer term to ease the regulatory burden for farmers when disposing of their fallen stock. Firstly, the revised ABP legislation continues to recognise that fallen stock can be buried in remote areas and extends that principle to derogate from the rules requiring disposal by incineration or rendering in circumstances where accessing fallen stock for disposal is practically impossible or dangerous or when natural disasters make it disproportionate to require collection. When the revised rules come into effect next year, we will make guidance available to farmers on when such circumstances apply.

Secondly, the revised legislation makes it more straightforward for on-farm containment systems such as bioreducers to be approved for use under EU rules and we will be pressing the Commission to bring forward the necessary proposals to make that happen as soon as possible.

In the longer term, as the BSE risks have declined markedly since the on-farm burial ban was first introduced in 2003 and as scrapie is not known to pose a risk to human health, we will be pressing the Commission for a review by the European Food Safety Authority of the current scientific rationale for the ban, so that it can inform future changes to ABP legislation.

Livestock: Slaughterhouses

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* cattle, *(b)* sheep and lambs, *(c)* goats and kids and *(d)* chickens slaughtered for meat which was (i) stunned and slaughtered using halal methods, (ii) not stunned and slaughtered using halal methods and (iii) slaughtered by other methods in the latest period for which figures are available. [24982]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 18 November 2010]*: The most recent data on halal slaughter were published in March 2004 by the Meat Hygiene Service in its Animal Welfare Review. These reported data were collected through a survey of meat plants which took place between 1 and 7 September 2003. The following table shows the number of animals killed for the production of halal meat during that one week period.

		Stunned	
Species	*Not stunned*	*Pre cut*	*Post cut*
Cattle	0	850	6
Young lambs	5,141	103,944	0
Other sheep	11,454	19,230	0
Goats	62	12	0
Broilers	134,289	1,898,689	0
Hens	11,495	92,296	0
Ducks	36	0	0

More recent data collected by the EU Dialrel project, see:

http://www.dialrel.eu/images/factsheet-assesment-practices.pdf

show that for halal slaughter in the UK, 75% of cattle, 93% of sheep and 100% of poultry are stunned before slaughter.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent assessment is of the effects on the livestock industry of the six-day rule; and whether she plans to review the operation of that rule. [25543]

Mr Paice: The advice I have received is that standstills confer significant protection against the spread of fast moving diseases such as foot and mouth. The biggest factor in the size of an outbreak is the length of time between the disease entering the country and its detection (the so called silent spread period—typically three weeks). Properly observed standstills limit the number of movements livestock can make during this period and hence reduce the number of potentially infected premises. I have asked the Task Force on Food and Farming headed by Richard Macdonald to review the six-day rule and make recommendations as to whether it should be retained in its current form, modified or abolished.

Local Authorities: Freedom of Information

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of local authorities provided data for annual returns to her Department's survey on Waste Data Flow in each of the last five years. [25315]

Richard Benyon: Local authorities submit data quarterly to WasteDataFlow under the Landfill Allowances and Trading Scheme (England) Regulations 2004.

In England, for the last five years (2005-06 to 2009-10), 100% of local authorities have provided data for all four quarters of each year. For 2005-06 to 2007-08, four authorities in England entered data required by the regulations, but not the full dataset requested on WasteDataFlow.

This information is available on DEFRA's website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/wastats/index.htm

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of local authorities provided data for annual returns for the Flycapture survey in each of the last five years. [25316]

Richard Benyon: Local authorities enter data on fly-tipping onto the Flycapture database on a monthly basis. In England the proportion of local authorities which provided fly-tipping data for (a) at least one month and (b) for all 12 months, for the last five financial years is provided in the following table:

	Percentage of local authorities which submitted data to Flycapture	
Financial year	*(a) For at least 1 month*	*(b) For all 12 months*
2009-10	100.0	100.0
2008-09	100.0	99.8
2007-08	100.0	96.5
2006-07	99.7	87.0
2005-06	99.5	89.2

Members: Correspondence

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to respond to question 24527, tabled on 11 November 2010, on land owned by the Forestry Commission. [25805]

Mr Paice: I replied to the hon. Member on 18 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 920-23W.

Paraguay: Imports

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made a recent estimate of the quantity of soy imported from Paraguay *(a)* directly and *(b)* through a third country (i) raw and (ii) incorporated into a product in the latest period for which figures are available. [25065]

Mr Paice: Since my statement to the House on 12 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 589-604, I have been made aware that, according to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, a shipment of 25,000 tonnes of soy beans arrived in the UK from Paraguay in April 2010. This should be seen in the context of total UK imports of 1.2 million tonnes of soy bean meal and 556,000 tonnes of soy beans in the latest period for which figures are available (January to September 2010). There are no recorded imports from Paraguay of food products containing soy extract in the latest period for which figures are available.

Rural Development Programme

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding will be disbursed from the Rural Development Programme for England in the period from 2010 to 2013. [24357]

Mr Paice: The planning assumption for the total spend for all axes of the Rural Development Programme for England between 2010-11 and 2013-14 is around £2.4 billion.

Rural Payments Agency: Manpower

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed in the Rural Payments Agency. [25360]

Mr Paice: As of 31 October 2010 the number of staff employed in the Rural Payments Agency is 2,567.49 full-time equivalents.

Science: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much her Department plans to spend on scientific research in the next five years; [25061]

(2) how much her Department spent on scientific research in each of the last five years. [25062]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not yet determined the details of its research spend over the next five years. However, we intend to maintain the core Department's spend on evidence as a proportion of total programme expenditure to 2014-15.

Evidence is defined as reliable and accurate information that DEFRA can use to support sound decisions in developing, shaping, and evaluating policy. It includes research, monitoring and surveillance, economic and statistical analysis and modelling, secondary analysis and synthesis, and analysis of stakeholder views.

The total budget available to commission evidence in each year is planned to be:

	£ million
2010-11	210
2011-12	199
2012-13	189
2013-14	177
2014-15	167

For comparison, the budget for evidence in 2009-10 was £213 million, of which £125 million was classified as research.

These figures represent evidence commissioned by core DEFRA in each year from external providers and our three laboratory agencies (the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; the Food and Environment Research Agency and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency). They do not include evidence commissioned out of grant in aid funds by the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission or the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

Core DEFRA's scientific research spend for the last five years is detailed in the following table. The data were taken from the Science Information System, which is used to monitor and record details of DEFRA's research and development projects.

	Spending (£ million)
2005-06	139
2006-07	137
2007-08	130
2008-09	128
2009-10	[1]119

[1] The Department's Evidence Investment Strategy published in January 2010 quoted a budget for research in 2009-10 of £125 million. The figure in the table reflects the actual spend as specified in the question.

Note:

These figures represent research commissioned by core DEFRA in each year from external providers and our three laboratory agencies (the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; the Food and Environment Research Agency and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency).

Sheep: Tagging

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what impact assessment her Department has undertaken of the implementation of electronic identification tagging for sheep. [25541]

Mr Paice: Detailed information about the cost of implementation in England is provided in a regulatory impact assessment on electronic identification (EID) of sheep and goats available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/movements/sheep/documents/ia-sheep100226.pdf

Wood

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on bringing forward legislative proposals to create an offence of possessing, importing and trading in illegallylogged timber in the UK. [25243]

Mr Paice: We will put in place the necessary legislation to implement the provisions of the EU illegal timber (due diligence) regulation in the United Kingdom. This underlines our commitment to eliminating illegal timber from the UK market. The regulation prohibits the first-placing of illegal timber on the EU market, restricting its purchase and sale down the supply chain.

TRANSPORT

A555

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the assessment made by his Department from 2005 to 2010 on the effect of the building of the A6 bypass on road access to Manchester Airport. [24847]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not undertaken a standalone assessment of the effect of the building of the proposed South East Manchester Multi Modal Study Relief Road (SEMMMS) nor of the individual parts of that scheme, including the proposed A6 Stockport North-South Bypass, on road access to Manchester Airport.

Aviation: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on *(a)* an aviation strategy for Northern Ireland and *(b)* the devolution of aviation matters to the Northern Ireland Assembly; [23660]

(2) whether he plans to produce a regional aviation strategy for Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [23661]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has not had any discussions with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on these matters.

The Secretary of State for Transport intends to develop a sustainable aviation framework for the UK which supports economic growth, as well as addressing aviation's environmental impacts. The Department for Transport will issue a scoping document in the new year, with a view to publishing a draft policy framework for formal consultation in March 2012.

Bridges: Tolls

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the economic effects of increases in the level of tolls on *(a)* the Severn Crossing, *(b)* the Dartford Crossing and *(c)* other major river crossings. [25711]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State has not made any assessment of the economic effects of the toll increases on the Severn Crossings and we have seen no evidence to suggest that the tolls have an economic impact on the Welsh economy. I am aware that the Welsh Assembly Government are undertaking an economic assessment on the impact of the tolls on the Welsh economy which is due to complete next year.

In respect of the Dartford Crossing, the details of the proposed revised charging regime, including an assessment of its impacts on usage and economic effects, will be set out for public consultation.

The Department intends to begin the necessary consultation on such proposals around the end of 2010.

The Department is currently undertaking an economic appraisal study of the impacts of the Humber Bridge tolls on the region. This study is due to be completed later in the year.

British Rail Board (Residuary) Ltd: Assets

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the disposal of British Rail Board (Residuary) Ltd assets. [21809]

Mrs Villiers: BRB (Residuary) Ltd continues to pursue its agreed strategy of disposing of non-operational assets that have no potential future transport use in such a way and to a timescale to secure best possible value to the taxpayer. As such it is not appropriate to set a specific timetable for the disposal of these assets.

Many of the assets that BRB (Residuary) Ltd holds carry indefinite statutory responsibilities. On the winding up of BRB (Residuary) Ltd these and any other remaining assets will transfer to the direct control of the Department for Transport.

British Transport Police

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of British Transport Police on its priorities. [23589]

Mrs Villiers: Primary responsibility for setting objectives for the British Transport police rests with the British Transport police authority. Department for Transport officials maintain regular contact with both the force and the authority on a range of issues, but Ministers have not sought to use their statutory powers to intervene in the objective-setting process.

British Transport Police: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of British Transport Police on the operations of British Transport Police in Scotland; [23586]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the work of British Transport Police in Scotland. [23587]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport Ministers have had no recent discussions specifically about the operation of the British Transport police in Scotland.

Bus Service Operators Grant

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the level of Bus Service Operators Grant in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [23373]

(2) what estimate he has made of the rate of payment of Bus Service Operators Grant in the first year of the new arrangements for the grant; [23374]

(3) whether he plans to differentiate the levels of Bus Service Operator Grant according to *(a)* fuel consumption and *(b)* standard of equipment provided by bus operators; [23424]

(4) how much funding will be paid from Bus Service Operators Grant to operators of local bus services and coach services in 2010-11. [23462]

Norman Baker: We estimate that Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) funding for the current year and each year of the spending review period will be:

					£ million
	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Local bus services	432	438	357	359	361
Coach services	18	12	0	0	0

We anticipate that the BSOG rate for 2011-12 will be the same as it is now (43.21 pence per litre). In 2012-13, we anticipate that this will be reduced by 20%, as announced in the spending review.

BSOG for local bus services is paid mainly according to the amount of fuel used. However, in recent years, the following incentives relating to vehicle equipment have been introduced:

The BSOG rate is increased by 8% for operators with operational ITSO smartcard systems on buses;

The BSOG rate is increased by 2% for operators with automatic vehicle location (e.g. GPS) systems on buses;

An additional BSOG payment of 6p per kilometre is paid for operators of low carbon buses.

As announced in the spending review, we intend to maintain these incentives.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding from Bus Service Operators Grant was paid to operators in *(a)* London, *(b)* rural areas, *(c)* small towns, *(d)* non-metropolitan urban areas and *(e)* metropolitan areas with an integrated transport authority in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [23387]

Norman Baker: We do not keep details of Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) split between types of area. We estimate the distribution of BSOG payments to local bus operators in 2009-10 to be as follows:

2009-10	*£ million*
London	112
English met areas	129
English non-met areas	189
Total	430

We would expect the estimated split for 2010-11 to be similar to 2009-10.

Bus Services: Disability

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made on ensuring that all new buses brought into service *(a)* are fully accessible and *(b)* include audio and visual information systems. [24301]

Norman Baker: The Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) require all buses and coaches both old and new to comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (now the Equality Act 2010), from 2015 to 2017 for buses, and from 2020 for coaches. Buses used on local services have been steadily becoming more accessible. In 2009-10 (the latest statistics available), 61% of the bus fleet meets the PSVAR requirements.

Research has been commissioned to assess the costs and benefits of installing audio visual equipment on buses. The research project has brought together a cross section of stakeholders, including Guide Dogs, Royal National Institute of Blind People and Royal National Institute for Deaf People. We will take account of the results of this work in considering any changes to PSVAR. The project is scheduled to report shortly.

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18626]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport and its seven Executive Agencies has 13 contracts with Capita and a total spend of £11,775,553 in 2010-11 to date.

Channel Tunnel Safety Authority

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to maintain the independence of the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority. [24083]

Mrs Villiers: The Channel Tunnel Safety Authority is already an independent body. We have no plans to change its current status.

Concessions

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in funding for local authorities on the provision of concessionary transport fares. [23386]

Norman Baker: The Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed the Government's commitment to protect key benefits for older people, such as free bus travel, in the recent spending review. From April 2011 all funding for the scheme will be provided through Formula Grant which gives local authorities the freedom and flexibility they want in their use of funding. Formula Grant is allocated on the basis that the level provided overall is sufficient to enable local authorities to deliver effective local services, while ensuring that authorities do not set excessive council tax increases.

The overall amount of Formula Grant funding available for local government was set out in the spending review. The funding available within Formula Grant for concessionary travel takes account of savings that local authorities will be able to make following the recent change to the age of eligibility for the scheme and through reforms to the administrative and reimbursement arrangements of the scheme. These reforms are not designed to impact on the provision of concessionary travel for eligible people.

Crossrail Line

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to publish a detailed timetable for the phased introduction of Crossrail services; and if he will make a statement. [25336]

Mrs Villiers: Following the decision to lengthen the delivery timetable for the central tunnel section of the Crossrail scheme, we expect that phased introduction of Crossrail services will commence from 2018.

The timing for the phased introduction of Crossrail services requires further work in a number of areas before it can be confirmed. This includes the procurement of rolling stock, work on the transfer of services from existing franchises to the future Crossrail services and development of detailed plans on the commissioning of services.

It remains a priority for Government that the phased introduction of Crossrail services happens in the most efficient possible way. I expect to update the House on this in due course.

Cycling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what mechanism he intends to monitor the effect of his Department's local transport policy framework and funding allocations on *(a)* local authority delivery of walking and cycling initiatives and *(b)* levels of walking and cycling. [20202]

Norman Baker: The National Travel Survey provides an ongoing measurement of walking and cycling levels in England. Specific initiatives within the Cycling England programme which provide direct funding to local authorities are monitored by collection of relevant data to demonstrate delivery and provide a basis for evaluation.

The Department for Transport is considering arrangements for measuring the impact of the different types of measures, including walking and cycling, that will be supported by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund over the four years from 2011-12. Details of the evaluation arrangements will be published later in the year as part of guidance on the operation of the new fund.

Cycling England

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation he undertook before he decided to abolish Cycling England. [23413]

Norman Baker: Cycling England was reviewed as part of the coalition Government's commitment to radically increase the transparency and accountability of public services and reinvigorating the public's trust in democracy. The Government's approach was based on the presumption that state activity, if needed at all, should be undertaken by bodies that are democratically accountable at either national or local level.

As with all the bodies included in the review, three tests were applied:

Does it perform a technical function?

Does it require political impartiality?

Does it need to act independently to establish facts?

Through this process the decision was taken to bring Cycling England's functions in house.

We are grateful for the support of Cycling England in the delivery of cycling policy and recognise its achievements since its creation in 2005. However, with the announcement of a broad fund of £560 million for Local Sustainable Travel, rather than a dedicated cycling budget, we feel that Cycling England is not the right way to continue to encourage local authorities and others to stimulate cycling.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Cycling England in promoting sustainable travel initiatives; and if he will make a statement; [23414]

(2) what assessment he has made of the value for money of the work of Cycling England. [23416]

Norman Baker: Cycling England was established in 2005 with a remit to "Get More People Cycling, More Safely, More Often". Over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, the Department for Transport (DfT) invested around £140 million in programmes to deliver this objective. Cycling England's role was to advise on how best to spend these funds and to oversee the delivery of the projects.

Analysis of results of the first three years of funding, of which DfT contributed £7.5 million, for the initial six Cycling Demonstration Towns has provided a Benefit Cost Ratio in the range 2.6 to 3.5, and a 27% increase, in cycle trips as shown by automatic cycle counters.

Current programmes continue to the end of March 2011 and are yet to be evaluated.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Safety

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much in profits from toll receipts has been spent on safety measures at the Dartford Crossing in the last five years. [17354]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency does not apply the profit from charge receipts to specific projects. However, the following amounts have been spent directly on Safety Improvement Projects, including fire suppression measures, at Dartford Crossing:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2005-06	2.1
2006-07	0.4
2007-08	2.7
2008-09	2.0
2009-10	0.8

Routine maintenance and operational costs are not included.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18198]

Mr Philip Hammond: In line with the Government's commitment to fairness, the spending review announced on 20 October has been conducted in a way that protects the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. My Department has undertaken a robust analysis of its spending proposals and the foreseeable effects of these on all protected groups.

As part of my Department's work in relation to the spending review, I have carefully considered the equalities impacts of particular proposals, as part of fulfilling the Government's commitment to promoting equality for all legally protected groups. I intend to publish the equality impact assessments arising out of the spending review in due course.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16799]

Norman Baker: The information requested is in the following table:

Department for Transport Business Unit	*Fixed-term contracts appointed (FTC's)*	*Total full-time equivalent headcount for each dept/agency as at 30 September 2010*
DFT(c)	[1]<5	2,033.5
Highways Agency	<5	3,778.3
VOSA	0	2,397.3
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	5	1,128.9
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	[2]86	5,966.5
Driving Standards Agency	0	2,458.0
Vehicle Certification Agency	0	147.0
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0	277.0
Total DFT(c) and agencies	96	18,186.5

[1] DFT(c)—These appointments were all either exempt from the recruitment freeze or were agreed appointments prior to 19 May 2010.

[2] DVLA recruited these FTCs before the recruitment freeze on 19 May, with some starting in June, (honouring job offers made before the freeze) and have recruited no further FTCs since June. The majority of the 86 FTCs were clerical grades working in operational areas such as the contact centre; nine of these have since left.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the proportion is of *(a)* men and *(b)* women full-time equivalent staff in each grade or pay band in each bargaining unit in his Department. [23874]

Norman Baker: Information for the central Department and its seven Executive Agencies is in the following tables.

Percentage of (a) men and (b) women in each grade/pay band in the Department for Transport

		DfTc		*MCA*		*VOSA*		*DVLA*	
Grade equiv	*Pay band*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
AA	PB1	53	47	39	61	46	54	58	42
AO	PB2	64	36	42	58	35	65	64	36
EO	PB3	44	56	25	75	17	83	62	38
HEO	PB4	38	62	24	76	25	75	55	45
SEO	PB5	24	76	11	89	23	77	51	49
G7	PB6	33	67	17	83	15	85	45	55
G6	PB7	25	75	6	94	0	100	41	59
SCS	SCS	32	68	22	78	0	100	8	92

		DSA		*VCA*		*GCDA*		*HA*	
Grade equiv	*Pay band*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
AA	PB1	52	48	62	38	0	100	67	33
AO	PB2	30	71	49	51	23	77	23	77
EO	PB3	39	61	38	62	7	93	55	45
HEO	PB4	34	66	2	98	8	92	40	60
SEO	PB5	40	60	10	90	0	100	25	75
G7	PB6	46	55	12	88	25	75	21	79
G6	PB7	25	75	0	100	50	50	16	84
SCS	SCS	75	25	0	100	0	0	10	90

Key:

DfTc—The Department for Transport (Central)
MCA—Maritime and Coastguard Agency
VOSA—Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
DVLA—Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency
DSA—Driving Standards Agency
VCA—Vehicle Certification Agency
GCDA—Government Car and Despatch Agency
HA—Highways Agency

Departmental Pay

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether senior civil servants in his Department have received bonuses in the last 12 months. [23875]

Norman Baker: Non-consolidated performance payments were awarded to senior civil servants in the Department for Transport in 2010.

Awards were based on a budget limited, by a collective decision of permanent secretaries, to 5% of SCS base pay; a reduction from the 8.6% of pay recommended by the Senior Salaries Review Body and accepted by the previous Government in March 2010.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the highest level of bonus paid to a member of the senior Civil Service in his Department was in the last 12 months. [23876]

Norman Baker: The highest level of non-consolidated performance pay awarded to a member of the senior civil service in the Department for Transport and its seven Executive agencies in the last 12 months was £23,680.

This non-consolidated performance award was made to a senior civil servant employed on a fixed term contract with specific performance pay arrangements.

The vast majority of senior civil servants in the Department are permanent civil servants with performance pay arrangements determined centrally and not by the Department. For these staff the highest non-consolidated performance payment in the last 12 months was £9,500.

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the functions carried out by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee will be discharged following its abolition. [24456]

Norman Baker: No decision on successor arrangements has yet been taken. We will be taking forward a consultative process on successor arrangements in the near future.

East Coast Railway Line

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable has been set for the bidding process for the East Coast Main Line franchise. [24671]

Mrs Villiers: The timetable for the bidding process for the Inter City East Coast franchise has not been determined yet.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent representations he has received from the sustainable biodiesel industry on the likely effects of removal of the 20 pence fuel duty differential for biodiesel produced from used cooking oil; [21719]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the contribution of the use of biodiesel produced from cooking oil to meeting targets for renewable energy use. [21720]

Norman Baker: Under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), suppliers of fossil fuel for transport are required to ensure that a proportion of the fuel they supply is obtained from renewable sources. In both 2008-09 and 2009-10, the first two years of the scheme, approximately 3% of the biofuel supplied was from recycled waste cooking oil. The supply of UCO is currently encouraged by a 20p duty differential.

We are currently working to amend the RTFO to fulfil the requirements of the European Renewable Energy Directive (RED). The RED provides additional support for biofuels from waste, including UCO, by double counting the contribution they make towards national targets.

It is difficult to assess the future supply of UCO biodiesel. WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) estimate that approximately 250,000 tonnes of cooking oil are produced every year in the UK and the Renewable Fuels Agency collect data on the volume of UCO biodiesel supplied under the RTFO. The supply of UCO biodiesel in the future will depend on the competitiveness of UCO suppliers within the market compared to diesel and other sectors, including the animal feed industry and power generation.

Ministers have had no recent representations from UCO suppliers. However, Department for Transport officials recently met with the UK Sustainable Biodiesel Association who represent many small UCO suppliers.

Ferries: Roll-On Roll-Off

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will commission research into the stability of roll-on roll-off ferries. [23448]

Mike Penning: Research into the damage stability of roll-on roll-off ferries has been commissioned by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency who are also collaborating on research commissioned by the European Commission and leading a group of the International Maritime Organization to review damage stability regulations for roll-on roll-off passenger ships.

Highways Agency

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Highways Agency is taking to ensure greater co-ordination between its offices. [22691]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency delivers a national road service through a network of eight offices, eight control centres and 31 smaller outstations at motorway locations. Co-ordination between the different offices is delivered through a directorate structure which manages the agency business on a national basis.

Large Goods Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets his Department has set for the reduction of emissions from heavy goods vehicles. [25712]

Norman Baker: The forthcoming Euro VI emissions standard, which will be mandatory for the engines of all lorries, buses and coaches, registered from 1 January 2014, will virtually eliminate emissions of solid particles, which is the air pollutant most closely linked to health problems, from vehicles of these types. This is because we confidently expect the standard to lead to the universal adoption of wall-flow diesel particulate filters on these vehicles in order to meet the very strict limits that the standard sets for emissions of particulate matter. It will also result in a significant reduction in emissions of oxides of nitrogen.

In addition to setting demanding standards for emissions of air quality pollutants from the engines of heavy vehicles, the Euro VI standard requires, for the first time, the measurement of carbon dioxide emissions during the tests on these engines.

Large Goods Vehicles: Tolls

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the proposed heavy goods vehicle road user charging scheme to be fully operational. [25709]

Mike Penning: We intend that a scheme will come into operation in April 2014, as shown in our Business Plan published on 8 November.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the annual *(a)* cost and *(b)* revenue arising from the operation of a heavy goods vehicle road user charging scheme. [25710]

Mike Penning: We are considering details of how the scheme will work and until further decisions have been made it is impossible to say how much it will cost or what revenue it will raise.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures are in place to verify the accuracy of declarations for exemption from MOT certificates submitted on V112 forms. [25714]

Mike Penning: Post Office or Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency Local Office staff check the details entered on the V112 Declaration prior to issuing a tax disc. A V112 is a declaration form completed by the customer at the point of re-licensing confirming that their vehicle is exempt from requiring an MOT certificate. The form gives the specific circumstances in which a vehicle is deemed to be exempt.

Motorways: Sales

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the revenue likely to accrue to the Exchequer from the sale to the private sector of *(a)* the motorway network and *(b)* the trunk road network. [21705]

Mike Penning: This Government have no plans to privatise either the motorway network or the trunk road network. We have not undertaken any studies of the likely revenues of selling either.

Preston-Manchester Railway Line: Electrification

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for electrification of the railway line between Preston and Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [23016]

Mrs Villiers: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the spending review that electrification between Liverpool, Manchester and Preston will go ahead. We are now in discussions with Network Rail about a delivery timetable and an announcement will be made in due course.

Railway Stations: South East

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which stations operated by Southeastern Railway have received funding for the provision of step-free access from his Department in the last five years; and which stations are due to receive such funding in the next 12 months. [24764]

Norman Baker: The Access for All main programme has so far provided step free routes at Herne Hill, Lewisham, Orpington and Staplehurst. Canterbury West is due to be completed in the next few weeks and Blackheath at around the end of this financial year.

In addition, since 2006 Southeastern Railways have received £885,040 from the Access for All Small Schemes Programme towards a total investment of £2,118,656 at 50 stations to provide a variety of access improvements. This has included schemes to make West Malling, Welling, Crofton Park, Tunbridge Wells, Chatham, Barnehurst and Faversham step free, although staff assistance may still be required to interchange between platforms.

Railways: Construction

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of encouraging the operators of international high speed rail services to include a stop at Stratford International station. [24830]

Mr Philip Hammond: Ultimately, the decision as to whether or not to stop at Stratford is a commercial judgment for the operators concerned. However, the Government continue to encourage both Eurostar and Deutsche Bahn to talk to the agencies and businesses that are investing in the development of the area around Stratford International station. We expect the sale of a 30 year concession to operate HS1 to lead to greater competition and a greater diversity of services being offered on the line, to the benefit of passengers.

Railways: Finance

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what preliminary findings he has received from Sir Roy McNulty's review of value for money on the railways. [24462]

Mrs Villiers: Sir Roy McNulty shared his emerging findings with the Secretary of State in advance of some of the announcement of the Government's spending review. Sir Roy McNulty will formally publish his interim findings shortly.

Railways: Kent

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to review performance of the Kent Integrated Franchise in relation to the objectives set out during the bidding process. [24763]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport officials monitor Southeastern's performance against the contract on a four-weekly basis. This review includes operational performance and the delivery of committed obligations.

The Southeastern Franchise Agreement is currently due to end on 31 March 2012. However, if the operator passes a performance-based continuation review, they have the right to extend the franchise for a further two years, to allow the franchise to end on 31 March 2014.

The review period is due to conclude on 12 December 2010 and the Secretary of State would expect to notify the operator of the outcome early in the new year.

Railways: Theft

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of hours by which rail services have been delayed as a result of cable thefts in the latest period for which figures are available; and whether he has made an estimate of the change in that number in respect of the last five years. [25532]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold train delay data at this level of detail, although ministers are in regular dialogue with Network Rail on issues affecting reliability including cable theft.

Network Rail is responsible for performance data for the rail industry. My hon. Friend may wish to contact Network Rail's Acting Chief Executive at the following address, to request such information:

Peter Henderson
Acting Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what future plans he has for the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. [23208]

Norman Baker: The UK's renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) requires fossil fuel suppliers to produce evidence that a specified percentage of their road transport fuels comes from renewable sources. The obligation level increases annually to 2013-14 when it reaches 5% by volume.

The EU's renewable energy directive (RED) requires member states to source 10% of transport energy from renewable sources by 2020. We are currently considering options for achieving this target in the UK, and will consult shortly on proposals to amend the RTFO to meet the requirements of the RED.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where the rescue co-ordination centres required to be designated under section 2.1.11.2 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue are located. [24404]

Mike Penning: The 19 Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres are located at:

Aberdeen
Belfast (Bangor)
Brixham
Clyde (Greenock)
Dover
Falmouth
Forth (Crail, Fife)
Holyhead
Humber (Bridlington)
Liverpool (Crosby)
Milford Haven
Portland (Weymouth)
Shetland (Lerwick)
Solent (Lee on the Solent)
Stornoway
Swansea
Thames (Walton on the Naze)
Great Yarmouth and
London.

The designated Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre is located at RAF Kinloss.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the map of the agreed search and rescue regions required by section 2.1.6 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue. [24405]

Mike Penning: The UK Search and Rescue Region map can be found on pages 17 to 19 of the 'Search and Rescue Framework for the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland'. This can be found on the Maritime and Coastguard's Agency website at:

http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/uksar.pdf

Copies of this document have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what principal types of available search and rescue units were required to be designated under section 2.1.11.4 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue in 2008. [24407]

Mike Penning: The following principal types were required to be designated; boats, aircraft, ground units and supplementary units.

The following search and rescue units were designated as being available in 2008:

Boats/vessels—short-range coastal, long-range sea going;

Aircraft—Islander and Cessna 402, Nimrod, Sea King and S61 helicopters;

Ground units—coastguard shore search teams controlled by Maritime Rescue co-ordination centres;

Supplementary units—offshore fire-fighting teams. Medical teams may be available.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what principal types of available search and rescue units are required to be designated under section 2.1.11.4 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue. [24408]

Mike Penning: The following principal types were required to be designated: boats, aircraft, ground units and supplementary units.

The following search and rescue units are designated as being available:

Boats/vessels—short-range coastal, long-range sea going;

Aircraft—Cessna 402, Sea King, AW139 and S92 helicopters;

Ground units—coastguard shore search teams controlled by Maritime Rescue co-ordination centres;

Supplementary units—offshore fire-fighting teams. Medical teams may be available.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions the Government has requested assistance from a neighbouring state in accordance with section 3.1 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue in each of the last five years; and from what search and rescue assets it received assistance. [24409]

Mike Penning: The information is not held in the form requested and extracting the information from the search and rescue database could be achieved only at disproportionate costs.

In practical terms, however, the intent of the International Maritime Organization's search and rescue convention is to encourage and support mutual cooperation between the UK and its neighbours. Joint working and co-ordination can be considered to be part of the normal business of search and rescue activity.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce his review of the search and rescue programme. [24419]

Mike Penning: On 17 June the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced a review of the approval of the search and rescue helicopter project in the context of the wider pressures on public spending. The review is continuing and once it is complete an announcement will be made.

Roads: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to introduce an annual road safety day. [21252]

Mike Penning: Road casualties are a crucial concern throughout the year, but there may be advantage in having an annual road safety day in providing a focus for attention and joint communications activities across groups. Therefore the possibility of an annual road safety day will be considered as part of the work on a future road safety strategy.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects on plans for the delivery of new rolling stock of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [24460]

Mrs Villiers: As set out in the comprehensive spending review statement, an announcement regarding rolling stock will be made in due course.

Shipping

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for additional measures to ensure that shipping companies enforce passenger manifest requirements. [23455]

Mike Penning: The Merchant Shipping (Counting and Registration of Persons on Board Passenger Ships) Regulations 1999, as amended, lay down requirements for owners of UK ships and ships operating from UK ports to have a system for counting everyone on a ship. Ships on longer voyages are required by the same regulations to collect and register information on each person on board, including name, gender and age. The requirements of the regulations are enforced by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as part of its inspection regime. The Government have no plans to bring forward additional measures at this time.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 11W, on M1: speed limits, whether fixed speed cameras will be used to detect offences of speeding over 70 miles per hour. [25203]

Mike Penning: Speed enforcement cameras to be installed as part of the controlled motorway system on the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 28 are not being introduced to enforce the national speed limit.

When no restrictions are in place, the signals will not show any speed limits, and will therefore indicate that normal motorway regulations and enforcement regimes apply.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 20W, on speed limits: cameras, whether the fixed speed cameras are in operation between M1 junctions 6a to 10. [25204]

Mike Penning: The speed enforcement cameras on the M1 between junctions 6a to 10 are not currently in operation.

Based on the current timescales, they are expected to come into operation during March 2011.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 20W, on speed limits: cameras, whether fixed speed cameras will used to detect offences of speeding over 70 miles per hour. [25205]

Mike Penning: Fixed speed enforcement cameras will not be introduced to enforce the national speed limit, they will only enforce the use of mandatory variable speed limits used to manage traffic flows. When no restrictions are in place, the signals will not show any speed limits, and will therefore indicate that normal motorway regulations and enforcement regimes will apply.

Thameslink

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce revised plans for *(a)* Thameslink and *(b)* the Thameslink through platforms at London Bridge. [23185]

Mrs Villiers: As set out in the spending review on the 20 October, the Government are still finalising their position regarding a number of rail projects—including Thameslink. An announcement is expected to be made shortly.

Tintwistle Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he received in favour of a Mottram and Tintwistle bypass prior to the agreement of the Investment in Highways and Local Transport programme. [22274]

Norman Baker: The Mottram and Tintwistle bypass scheme was removed from the roads programme in 2009. In addition to representations from my hon. Friend the Member for High Peak (Andrew Bingam), the Secretary of State received a number of other representations in favour of the scheme ahead of the Secretary of State's announcement to the House on 26 October 2010 and publication of the associated document Investment in Local Major transport Schemes. Where these are a matter of public record, they are available in the House of Commons Library.

Tomography: Research

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on health of the use of body scanners. [23646]

Mr Philip Hammond: An assessment of comparative ionising radiation doses was prepared by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The assessment concluded that the effective dose from one scan is equivalent to about one sixth of the dose received, as a result of cosmic radiation from the sun and other sources, during 1.4 minutes flying time at airline cruising height. The HPA concluded that for all groups of passengers security scanners do not constitute any unacceptable risks to health.

This assessment was published on the Department for Transport website on 1 February 2010.

Transport: Finance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, on transport (investment), (1) when he plans to publish the business cases for the major road schemes and local authority major schemes; [21044]

(2) what estimate he has made of the benefit to cost ratio of each *(a)* local authority major scheme and *(b)* major road scheme. [21046]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 3 November 2010]*: The decisions my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport announced in his statement on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, were fully informed by project business cases, including relevant cost-benefit measures.

Up to date business case information for Highways Agency major schemes will be published later this year.

For local authority schemes, the business cases as submitted to the Department for Transport to support previous approval decisions should already be published on local authorities' own websites. However, in order to secure value for money, to ensure our funding goes as far as possible and to maximise the number of projects that can go ahead, we have challenged scheme promoters to review options for cost reductions and increased local-contributions. For those schemes in the supported pool, we will publish updated information once we have made final decisions in January based on best and final bids from scheme promoters. At that point we will also publish the latest information on schemes in the development pool to enable interested parties to provide their views, although final decisions on these schemes will be made by the end of 2011.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which transport funding formerly paid by the Department for Transport to local transport authorities have been transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government; and what budget was set for each such fund for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 prior to the Government's in-year spending reductions. [22269]

Norman Baker: As part of the coalition Government's commitment to decentralising power and financial autonomy to local Government and communities, the Department for Transport will radically simplify its funding for 2011-12, moving from 26 different grant streams to just four.

The following table sets out funding for all grant streams in 2009-10, 2010-11 prior to in-year savings, and 2010-11 after in-year savings.

			2010-11 (£ million)	
Grant	*Funding Type*	*2009-10 (£ million)*	*Pre-reduction*	*Post-reduction*
Integrated transport block	Capital	589	602	451
Yorkshire and Humber integrated transport block transfer	Capital	47	47	23
Major projects	Capital	577	555	494
Highways maintenance[1]	Capital	768	848	836
Cumbria emergency funding	Capital	5	TBC	TBC
Road safety capital grant	Capital	17	17	0
Green bus fund	Capital	5	11	11

Grant	Funding Type	2009-10 (£ million)	2010-11 (£ million)	
			Pre-reduction	Post-reduction
Road safety partnership grant	Capital and Resource	4	4	2
Smart ticketing	Capital and Resource	10	10	10
Urban congestion fund	Capital and Resource	20	20	12
Nexus (Tyne and Wear Metro)	Capital and Resource	50	59	59
Cycle towns	Capital and Resource	26	19	19
Cycling - finding new solutions	Capital and Resource	4	2	2
Concessionary fares special grant	Resource	217	223	223
Pot holes	Resource	—	84	84
Winter emergency repairs	Capital	11	—	
Kickstart	Resource	4	5	0
Other bus grants	Resource	—	1	1
Cycle training	Resource	9	6	6
Cities fund (pump priming)	Resource	5	2	0
Local sustainable travel	Resource	1	2	0
Research and studies	Resource	—	6	2
Road safety revenue grant (area based grant)	Resource	78	77	57
Revenue de-trunking (area based grant)	Resource	50	52	52
Rural bus subsidy grant (area based grant)	Resource	59	60	60
School travel advisers (area based grant)	Resource	3	3	3
Total	—	2,559	2,715	2,407

[1] Includes maintenance block, capital de-trunking, primary route network and exceptional maintenance funding

As set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) recent consultation on Formula Grant, all future concessionary travel funding will be provided through formula grant.

All other revenue grant streams, excluding specific rail grants, will be ended from April 2011, and after a 28% reduction (as set out in Department for Transport's spending review press notice) the remaining funding will be split between a Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Formula Grant. Formula grant is unhypothecated and it is not possible to identify amounts within formula grant for any particular purpose.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology his Department uses to compare the level of investment in *(a)* roads and *(b)* railways. [24602]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* Investment in *(a)* roads and *(b)* railways is reported in Transport Statistics Great Britain 2009, p24, table 1.14, with accompanying notes and definitions on page 11. This is available at:

> http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/2009edition/

The next edition of this publication is due to be published on 25 November 2010.

The Department's business plan sets out that we will reform the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise. We will announce the scope of this review shortly.

Trust Ports

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the public ownership of each trust port. [23277]

Mike Penning: The National Infrastructure Plan, published on 25 October 2010, stated that the Government would encourage trust ports to bring forward proposals for modernisation and privatisation. The Secretary of State is currently considering a proposed scheme from Dover Harbour Board for voluntary privatisation. We have endorsed proposals for pursuing greater commercialisation and enhancements to efficiency, from the other major trust ports (Harwich, Tyne, Poole, Shoreham, London and Milford Haven) subject to our further agreement to their respective implementation plans.

UK Territorial Waters

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish a national action plan for responding to major pollution incidents within UK territorial waters. [23457]

Mike Penning: The National Contingency Plan for marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations is published by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and is available at:

> http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcqa07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-pollutionresponse/mcga-dops_cp_environmental-counter-pollution/mcga[illegible]07-ncp.htm

WALES

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps her Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [25023]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has not undertaken any exercise to establish what services could be provided by the Post Office network.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the monetary value was of contracts between her Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [25024]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has no contracts with Royal Mail; we do however pay £500 annually to have our mail collected from our London office.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25478]

Mr David Jones: In each of the last 12 months the Wales Office spent £977.50 per month for November and December 2009 and £998.75 for each month thereafter on Welsh press cuttings.

Economic Growth

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to her oral evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee of 20 July 2010, Q15, on her priorities for Wales, what research she has commissioned on regional growth in the UK. [25199]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State wrote to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T. C. Davies) as chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee on 22 July 2010 regarding the Oxford Economics report cited by the hon. Member for Pontypridd (Owen Smith).

The Government are committed to ensuring that there is strong and sustainable growth in Wales and, along with many other independent experts views the economic outlook for Wales positively.

Job Creation

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of the number of jobs that will be created in Wales in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [25200]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the response I gave on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 657W, to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane).

The Office for Budget Responsibility has made employment predictions for the UK based on macro-economic data and no figures are available at sub-national level.

Passport Office: Newport (Gwent)

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what meetings she has had with Ministers in the Home Department since the announcement of the formal consultation on the future of Newport Passport Office; [25655]

(2) what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Home Department on the future of Newport Passport Office since her announcement of the retention of a counter service in Newport; and what the outcomes were of those discussions. [25656]

Mrs Gillan: I discussed this issue with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 8 October when the consultation was announced and subsequently spoke to my hon. Friend the Immigration Minister on 12, 18 and 21 October.

I have continued to raise this issue with Cabinet colleagues and remain committed to preserving as many jobs as possible in the Newport Passport Office.

Welsh Grand Committee

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she plans to propose a meeting of the Welsh Grand Committee to be held in Wales. [25657]

Mrs Gillan: Future meetings of the Welsh Grand Committee—and their location—are currently being considered.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

UK Youth Parliament

Philip Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 222W, on the UK Youth Parliament, what the cost to the public purse was of hosting the UK Youth Parliament in 2009. [25431]

Sir Stuart Bell: The cost in 2009 was £17,469.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Compensation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* war widows and *(b)* other dependents of deceased service personnel are in receipt of payments from the Army Compensation Scheme. [25626]

Mr Robathan: As at 30 June 2010, 160 spouses and 205 children of deceased personnel from across the services were in receipt of Survivors' Guaranteed Income payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

This and other data about the AFCS can be found in the quarterly Defence Analytical and Statistical Agency AFCS official statistics. These are produced quarterly, and copies are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received from *(a)* the Forces Pension Society, *(b)* other organisations involved in military welfare matters and *(c)* others requesting that payments to war widows and other dependents of deceased service personnel should be protected from the effects of public spending reductions; and if he will make a statement. [25627]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has received letters from officers of the Forces Pension Society, War Widows Association of Great Britain and a member of the public relating to the effects on the pensions of dependants of deceased service personnel, of the decision that all future increases to public sector pensions and benefits should be based on the consumer prices index (CPI) rather than the retail prices index (RPI).

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* soldiers, *(b)* naval personnel and *(c)* service personnel injured while deployed on active service in Iraq and Afghanistan who will be affected by his recent policy decisions relating to armed forces pensions; and if he will make a statement. [25628]

Mr Robathan: The Government have announced that all public sector pensions and benefits will increase based on the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index. Therefore all personnel in receipt of such pensions and bonuses will be affected.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion (Caroline Lucas) of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 623W, on AWE Aldermaston: fires, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Atomic Weapons Establishment emergency plan for dealing with incidents in the AWE Aldermaston conventional explosives area. [21965]

Peter Luff: Yes; copies of the document will be placed in the Library of the House. However, parts of this document are classified and will require redaction prior to its placement.

Departmental Assets

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has set annual targets for the disposal of assets owned by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [25722]

Peter Luff: When the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) materiel or equipment becomes surplus to requirements, it is disposed of through the Disposals Services Authority who are tasked with obtaining the best possible return for the taxpayer.

There are no annual targets for disposal of MOD assets but the Disposals Services Authority has been set performance objectives for receipts, service delivery, avoidance of landfill, customer satisfaction and budgets.

Departmental Land

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has set targets for the sale of land from defence estates; and if he will make a statement. [25806]

Mr Robathan: The Strategic Defence and Security Review marked the beginning of a process that will transform our armed forces to meet the challenges of the future. That includes decisions on the defence estate, which will need to reflect what makes the most sense for our armed forces. As part of the detailed and comprehensive work which will lead to these decisions, the Ministry of Defence will endeavour to maximise the receipts from the sale of elements of the defence estate which are no longer required.

Nuclear Submarines

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the design life, expressed in effective full-power years, is of the PWR2 *(a)* reactor pressure vessel and *(b)* nuclear steam raising plant. [21603]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 3 November 2010]*: The PWR2 Nuclear Steam Raising Plant is fitted to Vanguard Class and Astute Class submarines. The design life of the PWR2, which includes the PWR2 Reactor Pressure Vessel, is expressed in calendar years rather than effective full-power years.

The PWR2 Nuclear Steam Raising Plant design life, including the PWR2 Reactor Pressure Vessel, is 25 years.

The Trident Value for Money Review considered the feasibility of extending the life of the Vanguard Class submarines beyond 25 years and analysis continues in support of the planned life extension.

RAF Kinloss

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has conducted a feasibility study of the suitability of RAF Kinloss as a base for service personnel and their families stationed in Germany; [25807]

(2) whether he has estimated the cost of converting RAF Kinloss into a base for service personnel and their families that are stationed in Germany. [25809]

Mr Robathan: Detailed work is currently being undertaken to identify precisely how the re-basing will be implemented and this work will take into account costs and accommodation issues. It is too early to say where personnel returning from Germany will be based. The possibilities could include parts of the existing defence estate which will be vacated as a result of other Strategic Defence and Security Review decisions, but this will be considered as we work through the details.

Territorial Army

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account is taken of the length of time served on operational tours by territorial army soldiers in deciding the award of volunteer reserves service medals. [23705]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 556W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: HIV Infection

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on his Department's programmes to reduce the incidence of HIV and AIDS among women in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [25003]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) programmes support a combination of prevention activities—encouraging behaviour change, counselling and testing and addressing the societal and structural drivers of the epidemic—including issues of gender and gender based violence. There has been a 60% overall reduction in new infections in sub-Saharan Africa since 2002, and the latest national survey in Zambia shows falling incidence rates in young women. Data on other countries may be published around World Aids day. Despite these positive trends, there are still many new infections in women. We recognise the need for ongoing investment and to look for more effective prevention approaches.

Conflict Prevention: Finance

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the budget for the Conflict Prevention Pool will be allocated as overseas development assistance in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [24450]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The allocation of funds to the Conflict Pool from the settlement on conflict resources for the spending review period from 2011-12 to 2014-15 is under consideration and an announcement will be made in the coming weeks.

The settlement on conflict resources covers the United Kingdom's legally binding commitments on assessed peacekeeping costs (the Peacekeeping Budget) as well as discretionary expenditure on conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping (the Conflict Pool). Assessed peacekeeping costs have first call on available funds; this affects the size of the Conflict Pool from year to year.

The total settlement for conflict resources for each year broken down into ODA and non-ODA components is laid out in the following table.

£ million

	Baseline 2010-11	*Y1: 2011-12*	*Y2: 2012-13*	*Y3: 2013-14*	*Y4: 2014-15*
ODA	97	130	150	175	200
Non-ODA	506	500	494	489	483
Total	603	630	644	664	683

Departmental Equality

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for consultation on his Department's gender equality action plan. [25031]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has regular and ongoing dialogue on our Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP), for example with the BOND network of UK non-government organisations working on international development.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish his Department's gender equality action plan; and if he will make a statement. [25032]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP), originally intended to cover the period 2007-10, has been extended to March 2011.

DFID's Business Plan 2011-15 sets out our current objectives to: increase the number of girls completing secondary and primary education; promote the economic empowerment of women and girls through jobs and access to financial services; pilot new approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls; and improve maternal health and access to family planning.

The Business Plan is available on the No. 10 website and in the Library of the House.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on his Department's gender equality action plan. [25033]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State has not received any formal written representations on the Department for International Development's Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP).

Departmental Manpower

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to announce the timetable for his review of the number of staff of his Department posted to international and multilateral organisations. [24809]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently undertaking a review of our spending through international organisations. The purpose of the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) is to ensure that the UK gets maximum value for money from its contributions to multilateral organisations. The review will include an assessment of the relevance of each organisation or fund to the UK's development objectives and their ability to deliver results on the ground. It will not look at staffing or secondments specifically, but it will make recommendations for how DFID should engage with the multilaterals in future to increase value for money. The MAR will conclude in February 2011. Future secondment policy will reflect the MAR's findings.

Euromapping 2010

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 26W, on Euromapping 2010, how many officials of each grade attended from his Department; at what cost; whether any official spoke at the launch; and if he will make a statement. [25001]

Mr O'Brien: Two officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) attended the Euromapping launch event at the House of Commons on 10 November, at no cost. These officials are at grades A2 (G7) and Deputy Director (G5). The Head of DFID's Human Development Department spoke at the event.

International Assistance: Agriculture

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcomes of the G20 Summit in Seoul on levels of international assistance for agricultural development and food security. [25083]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: At the G20 summit, leaders endorsed the 'Seoul Development Consensus on Shared Growth' and agreed to a multi-year action plan to tackle the obstacles to growth in poor countries.

No new funding commitments on agriculture and food security were made in Seoul. However, in 2009, at the G8 L'Aquila summit, 26 countries pledged a total of $22 billion to combat hunger in developing countries.

At the G8 summit in June 2010, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the UK's commitment to spend more than £1 billion on agriculture and food security over the next three years. I have also launched a new research programme designed to identify specific and cost-effective solutions to chronic malnutrition, at the Millennium Development Goal summit in September 2010.

PRIME MINISTER

Climate Change

Mr Bain: To ask the Prime Minister if he will establish a Cabinet committee or sub-committee on climate change, the environment and policy on renewable energy. [25235]

The Prime Minister: Climate change, the environment and policy on renewable energy are discussed by the relevant Cabinet Committees. We have also set up an informal ministerial working group to help meet our target of reducing carbon emissions from central Government by 10% within a year.

Departmental Internet

Martin Horwood: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects the 10 Downing street e-petition system to become operational; and if he will make a statement. [25715]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will commission a study of the global warming potential of *(a)* black carbon emitted in the UK and *(b)* black carbon emitted by biomass plants in the UK. [25390]

Gregory Barker: The Department has no current plans to commission a study specifically on the global warming potential of black carbon emitted in the UK or from UK biomass plant but the need for this is under review. However, the Department is currently funding as part of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme a number of important studies on the climate impacts of black carbon more generally.

Climate Change: Conferences

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his objectives are for the UN Climate Change Conference 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. [24985]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to working towards an ambitious global deal to tackle climate change. At Cancun, we want to see substantive progress made on a politically balanced package of decisions that help re-establish momentum towards that goal.

Our aim is that this package should include decisions on anchoring developed and developing country mitigation pledges into the formal UNFCCC process, agreement on the measurement, reporting and verification arrangements for emissions from both developed and developing countries, arrangements for the future governance of climate finance (including establishing the Green Fund), measures to reduce emissions from deforestation, as well as arrangements on market mechanisms, the technology mechanism and adaptation framework.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his objectives are for international agreement on targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions at the UN Climate Change Conference 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. [24987]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to working towards an ambitious global deal to tackle climate change. At Cancun, we want to see substantive progress made on a politically balanced package of decisions that help re-establish momentum towards that goal.

Our aim is that this package should include decisions on anchoring developed and developing country mitigation pledges into the formal UNFCCC process, agreement on the measurement, reporting and verification arrangements for emissions from both developed and developing countries, arrangements for the future governance of climate finance (including establishing the Green Fund), measures to reduce emissions from deforestation, as well as arrangements on market mechanisms, the technology mechanism and adaptation framework.

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU, *(b)* US and *(c)* Chinese counterparts on climate financing; and what funding he plans to commit to the Global Climate Fund at the Cancun summit. [25555]

Gregory Barker: We have regular discussions with counterparts in the EU, US and China as part of our ongoing dialogue on climate finance. We support setting up the Green Climate Fund and are working towards a decision in Cancun to achieve this as part of a balanced package of outcomes.

Through the spending review we committed to provide £2.9 billion for international climate finance over four years—a significant scaling-up of resources. However, the Green Climate Fund has not yet been agreed nor designed. Therefore, it is not in a position to take funding from donors. Once the fund is operational we hope that it will provide a suitable vehicle for distributing climate finance effectively.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25491]

Gregory Barker: The expenditure on press cuttings by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and its NDPBs is as follows:

£

	Department of Energy and Climate Change	*Nuclear Decommissioning Authority*	*The Committee on Climate Change*[1]	*Civil Nuclear Police Authority*	*Coal Authority*
2009					
October	—	—	1,656.52	—	—
November	6,552.56	558.90	1,700.17	821.03	819.55
December	10,047.69	558.90	2,737.52	2,847.00	724.75
2010					
January	5,544.97	558.90	819.43	1,496.00	622.60
February	5,151.30	558.90	749.50	1,781.00	610.45
March	8,063.60	558.90	761.87	1,886.00	923.35
April	7,242.89	558.90	433.22	1,678.00	647.95
May	8,583.30	558.90	499.54	1,898.00	537.65
June	7,847.25	558.90	426.06	2,519.00	642.95
July	8,601.12	558.90	489.95	2,118.00	773.75
August	5,037.30	558.90	366.35	1,894.00	774.40
September	[2]3,268.15	558.90	597.71	1,861.00	598.00
October	[2]3,836.93	558.90	—	1,941.00	747.45

[1] The October 2010 data for the Committee on Climate Change are not available yet.

[2] As the most recent two months indicate, DECC has substantially reduced the scope of, and therefore made substantial savings on, its press cuttings service.

Energy: Billing

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the likely effects of the Renewables Obligation on domestic energy bills in *(a)* Blackley and Broughton constituency, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England in each of the next three years. [25558]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem who administer the renewables obligation have calculated the annual cost of the RO for all UK customers in 2009-10 to be around £12 per domestic electricity customer. This information is published on the Ofgem website:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/FactSheets/Documents1/updatedhouseholdbills09.pdf

Their previous estimate for 2008-09 was around £10 per customer set to rise to around £20 a year by 2015:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/FactSheets/Documents1/energy%20prices%20Jan08.pdf

Energy: Prices

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ofgem on its overarching standards of conduct in respect of the requirement not to supply products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing; and if he will make a statement. [24993]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers meet with Ofgem on a regular basis to discuss market and consumer issues.

It is for Ofgem to monitor compliance with its standards of conduct. To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem actively monitors the activities of licence holders, including compliance with their standards of conduct.

As part of this process Ofgem will review whether changes to the gas and electricity supply licences introduced as part of the Energy Supply Probe have proved sufficient to help consumers understand and benefit from the range of tariffs available to them, and consider what further steps may be needed.

Ofgem has said that if suppliers do not meet the obligations they will consider more formal action.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure that energy companies provide more transparent and accurate data about the connection between their wholesale and retail prices; and if he will make a statement. [25653]

Charles Hendry: To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem actively monitors the energy market and the activities of licence holders. Since 2009 Ofgem has produced a quarterly report on the link between wholesale and retail energy prices. The latest Ofgem quarterly report is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/MARKETS/RETMKTS/ENSUPPRO/Documents1/Electricity%20and%20Gas%20Supply%20Market%20Report%20September%202010.pdf

EU Emissions Trading Scheme: Cement

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with representatives of cement producers who do not manufacture cement in the UK on the proposed hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; in which countries each such manufacturer operates; and if he will make a statement. [25690]

Gregory Barker: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October, including the proposed hybrid clinker benchmark. There have been no meetings with cement producers who do not manufacture in the UK about this proposed hybrid approach.

Officials have met Holcim, who do not manufacture cement in the UK, on two occasions in January and February 2010. Within the European Union, I understand that Holcim operate in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania and Spain. These meetings were about the broad issue of cement benchmarking, rather than the currently proposed hybrid approach.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that the cement industry's ability to compete in the EU is not adversely affected by implementation of the EU Commission's proposals for a hybrid clinker benchmark for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [25701]

Gregory Barker: The European Commission's proposal for the free allocation rules for Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was sent to member states on 22 October. My officials are working closely with colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to analyse the proposal in detail in order to assess its impact un UK industry.

My officials have met with representatives of the UK cement sector in order to discuss the proposal to ensure that we have a full understanding of the implications of the proposed approach. This included discussions on approaches that could recognise the high levels of substitution that the UK cement industry achieve. Officials will also be having discussions with the European Commission on this issue and further discussions with industry before any conclusions are reached.

Fuel Poverty: Tyne and Wear

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 923-24W, on fuel poverty: North East, what estimate was made of the number and proportion of households in fuel poverty in the former Tyne Bridge constituency. [25075]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 7,200 (19%) fuel poor households in the Tyne Bridge constituency.

Green Investment Bank

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to place a levy on energy bills as a way of providing funding for a Green Investment Bank. [25452]

Gregory Barker: There are no plans to place a levy on consumers' energy bills to fund the Green Investment Bank. The spending review announced that the Government intend to fund the Green Investment Bank with £1 billion from departmental budgets and significant additional proceeds from the sale of Government-owned assets.

Heat Pumps

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of installed heat pumps which reach the 60 degree centigrade requirement applicable under the Health and Safety Executive Approved code of practice on the control of legionella bacteria in water systems. [24696]

Gregory Barker: All heat pumps that are designed to provide domestic hot water should have the ability to raise the temperature of the water to 60 degrees centigrade. Some refrigerant cycles enable hot water to be produced by the heat pump only. Other refrigerant cycles provide lower temperature hot water. These systems periodically raise the temperature of the hot water tank for a pre-determined time to kill legionella bacteria; using a combination of the refrigerant cycle and direct electric heating or just direct electric heating. The efficiency of a heat pump decreases as the required water temperature increases.

Nuclear and Renewable Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential for *(a)* main contractors and *(b)* supply chain companies in the UK to benefit from the expansion of (i) offshore wind, (ii) nuclear, (iii) tidal and wave and (iv) biomass energy. [25751]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to maximising the economic opportunities that renewable and nuclear energy can bring to the UK.

Offshore wind

The UK is the largest deployer of offshore wind and currently the largest market. The Carbon Trust estimates that up to 70,000 jobs could be created in offshore wind by 2020, made up of 50,000 direct jobs, and 20,000 secondary jobs (e.g. legal services, finance). They also estimate 220,000 jobs in offshore wind by 2050 - 135,000 direct and 85,000 secondary jobs. Following the Government's announcement that they will make up to £60 million available to support the establishment of manufacturing infrastructure at port sites a number of major turbine manufacturers have indicated their intention to set up UK manufacturing facilities.

Wave and Tidal

The wave and tidal sector is currently at a pre commercial stage but we are committed to harnessing the benefits which a successful marine renewables sector can bring to the UK opportunities for the development of the supply chain was one of the topics covered in the 'Marine Energy Action Plan' published by DECC in March 2010 and will form one element of the Government's new UK Marine Energy Programme.

In addition, a number of studies have been carried out, for example the Carbon Trust's 'Focus For Success' report estimates that the wave sector alone could create around 16,000 direct jobs by 2040, with 25% supporting UK exports. We have also been working with industry representatives on modelling and mapping the marine energy supply chain. A good example of this is the Regen SW 'Marine Energy and Offshore Wind Company Directory' which maps the supply chain in the region and can be seen at.

http://www.regensw.co.uk/projects/offshore-renewables/offshore-supply-chain

Biomass energy

A number of studies have been conducted to consider the economic potential in the bioenergy sector. For example, a 2007 study to quantify employment from biomass power plants showed that power only bioenergy systems typically create 1.27 man years of employment per GWh electricity produced. A recent study for the Forestry Commission in June 2010 found that the woodfuel sector alone could contribute £1 billion to the UK economy by 2020 and support 15,300 jobs.

Nuclear

The various private sector consortia that are gearing up for new build have stated intent to deliver up to 16 GWe by 2025 and UK companies have the potential to benefit from the majority of the work generated by this investment. Research by the Nuclear Industry Association reports that UK companies have the capability to supply 70% of the total requirements of new nuclear plant in the UK and that with some investment this could rise to 80%.

A report by the Cogent Sector Skills Council found that thousands of training opportunities, new apprenticeships and new jobs will be needed in the construction, manufacturing, operation and maintenance of anticipated stations for a programme of this scale and that up to 30,000 new jobs could be created. More jobs could be created as the result of larger programmes and the opportunity for companies involved in new nuclear build is not limited to the UK market with many more countries looking closely at introducing or expanding nuclear power programmes as a way of meeting rapidly increasing demands for energy while addressing the challenge of climate change.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of *(a)* international capacity constraints in the supply of pressure vessels for new nuclear energy facilities and *(b)* the potential effects of such constraints on the timetable for the construction of new nuclear power stations. [25778]

Charles Hendry: We speak regularly with the reactor vendors and they do not believe this will cause a delay to new nuclear plant. Ultra heavy forgings for pressure vessels need to be ordered a long time in advance and vendors already have slots booked with existing suppliers to ensure that when they are building reactors around the world the necessary elements are available.

Offshore Drilling: Safety

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 408, on offshore oil drilling, what assessment he has made of the steps the Government took in response to the Macondo incident; and if he will make a statement. [25797]

Charles Hendry: We have already taken actions to further strengthen our regime and we are satisfied that it is one of the most robust in the world.

We continue to consider new information as it becomes available and determine if it has any implications for our regime.

Once the final report is available from the US we intend to conduct a review at that time.

Ofgem

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on Ofgem's overarching standards of conduct in respect of the requirement not to supply products that are unnecessary, complex or confusing; and if he will make a statement. [25371]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers meet with Ofgem on a regular basis to discuss market and consumer issues.

It is for Ofgem to monitor compliance with its standards of conduct. To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem actively monitors the activities of licence holders, including compliance with their standards of conduct.

As part of this process Ofgem will review whether changes to the gas and electricity supply licences introduced as part of the Energy Supply Probe have proved sufficient to help consumers understand and benefit from the range of tariffs available to them, and consider what further steps may be needed.

Ofgem has said that if suppliers do not meet the obligations they will consider more formal action.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Citizens Advice Bureaux: Finance

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for future financial support for the Citizens Advice Bureau *(a)* direct from his Department and *(b)* through local authorities. [24511]

Robert Neill: Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) are independent organisations and registered charities. Each Citizens Advice Bureau is a separate registered charity, operating independently, which may be funded by the local authority in which it is located.

Local authorities are democratically elected and independent from central Government. They are responsible for their own finances and for developing local solutions that meet the needs of the community. It is for each local authority when assessing their local priorities to decide whether and how to support their local CAB. Information on the amount of funding provided by authorities to CABs is not collected centrally.

Citizens Advice (CitA) is the national umbrella organisation for the Citizens Advice Service in England and Wales. It receives core funding from central Government through the provision of annual grant in aid (£18.943 million in 2010-11) from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills on behalf of all Government Departments and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Government values highly the work of the Citizens Advice Service, its independence from Government and the trust in which it is held by the public. In recognising this and its strong brand, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills made a statement on 14 October outlining proposals to streamline the consumer landscape including the transfer of the functions of Consumer Focus, and the transfer of the Consumer Direct helpline, currently run by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to the national bodies for the Citizens Advice Service in England and Wales and in Scotland.

I also refer my hon. Friend the Member for Ispwich (Ben Gummer) to my Department's press notice of 14 October 2010 on how councils should recognise the valuable role of the voluntary sector.

Council Tax

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage increase in council tax has been in *(a)* Wellingborough and *(b)* England and Wales since 1997. [25716]

Robert Neill: The average band D council tax in Wellingborough has risen from £20 per dwelling in 1997-98 to £148 in 2010-11, an increase of 640%. In the same period the area band D council tax in Wellingborough (ie the council tax for Wellingborough plus the precepts for Northamptonshire county council and Northamptonshire police) has risen from £585 to £1,370, an increase of 134%.

The average band D council tax in England has risen from £688 per dwelling in 1997-98 to £1,439 in 2010-11, an increase of 109%.

These details are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website, under "Related Downloads", at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

Council tax levels in Wales are a matter for the Wales Assembly Government.

Fire Services: Expenditure

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue cost was of regional fire control centres (i) in Northamptonshire and (ii) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [25718]

Robert Neill: Northamptonshire, along with Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland, is in the east midlands region with the control centre located at Castle Donington.

For the current running costs of all the control centres, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Richard Graham) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 505W.

The cost of construction and installation of the control centres was borne by the developers as the buildings were procured through a private developer scheme.

Fire Services: Greater London

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority on the placing of 28 London fire engines with AssetCo; and if he will make a statement. [25337]

Robert Neill: I have had no discussions with the chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority regarding the deployment of the 27 engines used to provide emergency fire cover during the recent strikes.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time fire fighters were employed *(a)* in Northamptonshire and *(b)* nationally in each of the last 15 years. [25713]

Robert Neill: The number of full-time firefighters employed in Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Services and England in each of the last 15 years is shown in the table.

Whole-time firefighters (full-time equivalent) in England and Northamptonshire FRS from 1996 to 2010

Date	*England*	*Northamptonshire*
1 January 1996	32,543	285
1 January 1997	32,294	287
1 January 1998	31,906	280
31 March 1999	31,918	293
31 March 2000	31,466	296
31 March 2001	31,623	296
31 March 2002	31,761	292
31 March 2003	31,699	307
31 March 2004	31,826	311
31 March 2005	31,097	298
31 March 2006	30,596	288
31 March 2007	30,558	287
31 March 2008	30,580	276
31 March 2009	30,088	276
31 March 2010	29,735	269

Fire Services: Standards

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of reinstating national standards for the fire service; and if he will estimate the likely cost to the public purse of implementing that standard. [25717]

Robert Neill: Response target-setting is a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities under Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP), according to local requirements and circumstances, and is not something that central Government should direct or determine. The Government have no plans to reintroduce national standards for fire and rescue service response times. Decisions made by local politicians and practitioners according to local circumstances will be more effective than blanket requirements across the country.

For those reasons, no estimate of the financial implications of reinstating national standards has been made by central Government.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on arrangements to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [25084]

Andrew Stunell: Holocaust Memorial Day will take place on 27 January 2011 across the United Kingdom, including a national event in central London. The theme for 2011 will be Untold Stories. Millions of stories of individuals and communities have been lost through the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides. Events will focus on inspiring participants to tell and listen to stories in our own communities today.

Almost 800 events were held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2010, and it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of events for 2011. These are listed on the Holocaust Memorial Day website on a daily basis. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, which is supported by my Department, has received thousands of requests for free materials to help mark the Day, including from teachers, librarians, local authorities, museums, trade unions, arts organisations, youth groups and prisons.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority must assume a duty to house a household deemed to be in priority need and unintentionally homeless in circumstances in which such a household has not established a previous local connection in excess of six months. [24853]

Grant Shapps: Under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996), where a local authority accepts an applicant as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless, and in priority need and refers the case to another authority because it considers the conditions for referral are met, the authority seeking to make the referral has a duty to secure accommodation until the question of referral is resolved. It is for individual authorities to decide whether applicants have a local connection with their district. Authorities may have regard to non-statutory guidelines agreed by the local authority associations which suggest that, among other things, a working definition of "normal residence" should be residence for at least six months in the area during the previous 12 months or for not less than three years during the previous five-year period. If it is agreed that the applicant does not have a local connection with the authority making the referral and does have one with another authority in Great Britain (and other relevant conditions for referral are met), the other authority has a duty to secure accommodation under section 193(2) of the 1996 Act.

Legal Opinion

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on legal advice since his appointment. [21330]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* According to departmental records for the period between 12 May and 31 October 2010 the Department has spent £1,054,362 on external legal services. A significant proportion of these costs relate to legal issues inherited from the previous Administration.

Our purchase ledger records show a spend on comparable legal fees of £4.8 million in 2009-10 and £4.3 million in 2008-09.

Local Government Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure the retention of allocations of equivalent funding to local authorities following the removal of ring-fencing from local authority grants announced in the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [25010]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* We will announce our proposals for the distribution of formula grant to the House in due course.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential cost savings which may arise from local authorities, police authorities and NHS organisations working together more closely; and if he will make a statement. [25457]

Robert Neill: The Department has not directly commissioned research on the potential cost savings which may arise from local authorities, police authorities and NHS organisations working together more closely, but has sought to encourage local public sector organisations and representative bodies to develop projects which could identify savings that could be achieved across agencies. These initiatives include:

The Department, along with HM Treasury and other departments, worked with a number of local authorities and their partners on 'Total Place' during 2009-10. These areas looked at new ways of working locally; redesigning services to meet local people's needs. A report was made of their findings and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/total_place_report.pdf

We are encouraging councils to share departments, offices and back office services as outlined in the Secretary of State's speech on town hall waste and duplication of 13 October 2010.

The Government announced the first phase of Community Budgets in the spending review which will be implemented from April 2011. 16 places will focus on tackling families with complex needs using locally-designed, cross-organisation solutions. We will evaluate the first phase and intend to roll out Community Budgets from April 2013.

The local government sector is evaluating the opportunities offered by such approaches. The Improvement and Development Agency has published reports on this subject in 2008 and 2009 at:

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=14198370

In addition, the Local Government Group are exploring these issues though the 'Place Based Productivity Programme'.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce his proposals for the distribution of formula grant; and if he will make a statement. [25721]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 459W.

Local Government: Surveys

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many separate requests for data from local authorities his Department made in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [25318]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold a record of all the data requests it has made to local authorities in recent years, and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Government are currently reviewing the data requirements placed on local authorities with the aim of reducing them and making them transparent. This will result in a single comprehensive list of all the data that local government is expected to provide to central Government, including that required by DCLG, from April 2011.

However, as an example, research for the Total Place pilots found that across Leicestershire's councils, PCT, fire, police and probation services, there were 90 full-time staff, at an annual cost of £3.7 million, having to collect and process data for central Government, reporting on more than 3,000 individual data items. They were also subjected to 83 different inspections every year, costing £2.2 million in dedicated staff costs and a further £1.4 million in other staff time (Deloitte/Leicestershire county council, "Measuring the Workload: Public Sector Performance Reporting and Inspection Regimes in Leicestershire, October 2009").

Mayors: Referendums

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many referendums on the introduction of a directly elected mayor there have been in district councils in England with a population of under 100,000 people since 2005; [24680]

(2) what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* referendums and *(b)* elections for directly elected mayors in district councils in England where the population is below 100,000 people since 2005; [24681]

(3) what the average cost of a referendum on the introduction of a directly elected mayor in a district council in England where the population is below 100,000 people has been since 2005; [24684]

(4) on how many occasions a referendum has resulted in the introduction of a directly elected mayor in district councils in England with a population under 100,000 has been since 2005. [24685]

Robert Neill: Since 2005, there has been one referendum on the introduction of a directly elected mayor in a district council—Fenland district council—with a population of below 100,000 people; this did not result in the introduction of a directly elected mayor.

My Department does not hold the information requested on costs.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which cities he is considering as potential locations for mayoral referendums. [25456]

Robert Neill: We will address the issues relating to the implementation of the coalition agreement commitment to create directly elected mayors in the 12 largest English cities, subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected councillors, when the Localism Bill is presented to Parliament.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1031W, on renewable energy: planning permission, what timetable he has set for *(a)* making key decisions and *(b)* bringing forward proposals to amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 for small-scale wind turbines and air source heat pumps. [25557]

Greg Clark: The Government are committed to introducing permitted development rights. We intend to make a statement to the House and introduce the necessary legislative changes in due course once a small number of technical issues are concluded.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the average change in social housing rents in *(a)* North Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England as a result of implementation of measures contained in the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [24970]

Grant Shapps: Our proposals will involve increasing the affordable housing stock, increasing opportunity and quality of life for those currently on housing waiting lists. The new 'Affordable Rent' product will be set at up to 80% of local market rents with tenants in homes where the new affordable rent is charged being eligible to apply for housing benefit. Existing social tenants will retain their existing rents and tenure arrangements. We will publish more details shortly.

Travellers: Cheshire

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department or its predecessors have provided any funding from the public purse for Cheshire Gypsy and Travellers Voice since 1997. [25074]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government's current finance system only holds records back to 1 April 2002 and to date there have been no payments made to Cheshire Gypsy and Travellers Voice or its predecessors.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 818W, on wind power: planning permission, (1) where the 99 proposed onshore wind farms will be located; [25076]

(2) for what reasons planning applications do not take wind speed into account; and what the criteria are for assessing planning applications. [25077]

Robert Neill: The number of onshore wind farms referred to in my answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 818W, was drawn from the Renewable Energy Planning Database hosted by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. This database includes interactive maps showing the location of wind farm developments. These can be filtered to show the locations of wind farm developments which have been granted planning approval but have not yet become operational. The current list has been extracted and deposited in the Library of the House.

The energy justification for why a proposed wind farm should be sited in a particular location involves considerations of technical and commercial feasibility (including meteorological and economic viability) which are for the developer concerned. In reaching their decision on a planning application for a wind farm, local planning authorities will consider whether the proposed development is acceptable in terms of their development plan and other considerations which can include national planning policy and relevant planning issues raised by local communities.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhood Fund. [25652]

Robert Neill: We are not withdrawing the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. It was always envisaged that it would end in March 2011.

In line with our equalities duties, an equality impact assessment into the completion of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund has been carried out and will be published in due course.

The Department for Work and Pensions is also to introduce the Work Programme which will provide an integrated package of support providing personalised help for people who find themselves out of work.

Youth Justice: Greater London

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated for youth crime provision in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what estimate he made of the amount of such funding allocated in respect of young people aged *(a)* 12 years or younger, *(b)* between 13 and 17 years and *(c)* between 18 and 24 years in 2009-10. [24631]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not provide any direct funding for youth crime provision. In 2008-09 the Department provided £300,000 to the Improvement and Development Agency to support initial stages of pilots in four local authority areas (including Westminster) testing a range of approaches in responding to youth crime.

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Pension Age

21. **Chris Williamson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions are being made for women aged between 54 and 59 adversely affected by the acceleration in the increase in state pension age. [25128]

Steve Webb: No women aged 58 or over will be affected by our proposals.

Government have brought forward the increase in the state pension age to 66 to ensure the system is fair and sustainable in the long term.

We are taking steps to ensure those who want to continue to work are able to do so by, for example, phasing out the default retirement age.

IT Provision: Benefits System

22. **Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that appropriate IT systems are in place to support his Department's proposed reform of the benefits system. [25129]

Chris Grayling: DWP are currently in the planning stages for the delivery of IT to support universal credit.

The approach is based upon significant re-use of a number of IT components and systems which either currently exist within DWP, or are being developed through our existing change programmes.

HMRC plans are currently on track for the delivery of their IT systems to support the provision of earnings information to DWP for universal credit and plan to consult on the next stages shortly.

Child Maintenance

23. **Caroline Nokes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase parental responsibility for child maintenance. [25130]

Maria Miller: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Maidstone and the Weald (Mrs Grant) earlier in the session.

Carer's Allowance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* East Ayrshire and *(d)* Kilmarnock and Loudon constituency who would become eligible for carers' allowance if the eligibility criteria were changed to enable those in full-time study or training for more than 20 hours a week to claim the allowance. [24487]

Maria Miller: No such estimate has been made.

Carer's allowance provides a measure of financial support for people who forgo the opportunity of full-time employment in order to provide care for a severely disabled person.

The educational maintenance system, via its range of loans and grants, provides financial support for full-time students, including carers. In consequence, people engaged in full-time study are generally precluded from entitlement to income-replacement and income-related social security benefits.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to which local newspapers his Department had a subscription between June 2007 and May 2010; on what date each such subscription started; and what the cost to the public purse was of such subscriptions. [24426]

Chris Grayling: Information on local newspapers to which the Department had a subscription provided via the Library and Information Service between June 2007 and May 2010 is set out in the following table.

Title	*Start of subscription*	*Cost (£)*[1]
Evening Standard	—	7,623.00
Birmingham Post	—	293.70
Croydon Advertiser	—	40.50
Daily Record (Scotland)	—	391.15
Llanelli Star	—	63.96
Scotland on Sunday	—	120.10
Scotsman	—	603.40
Sheffield Evening Star	February 2007	936.00
Sheffield Telegraph	February 2007	132.60
South London Press	—	168.00
South Wales Evening Post	—	381.60
Sunday Post (Scotland)	—	144.00
Swansea Herald	—	35.36
Western Mail	—	146.99
Wrexham Evening Leader	—	865.80
Yorkshire Post	—	148.82
Total:	—	12,094.98

[1] June 2007 to May 2010

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's funding streams are allocated on a regional basis. [24467]

Chris Grayling: In general, funding is allocated at a national level; however, the European Social Fund is specifically allocated on a regional basis.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24497]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) No regulations have been made by primary legislation in the last six months.

(b) The following regulations have been made by statutory instrument in the last six months:

The Social Security (Disability Living Allowance) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1651)

The Social Security (Claims and Payments) Amendment (No 3) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1676)

The Offshore Installations (Safety Zones) (No. 2) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1739)

The Social Security (Exemption from Claiming Retirement Pension) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1794)

The Social Security (Housing Costs) (Standard Interest Rate) Amendment Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1811)

The Transfer of State Pensions and Benefits (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. 2010/1825)

The Welfare Reform Act 2007 (Commencement No. 12) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1905) (C. 100)

The Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) (Revocation) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1906)

The Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1907)

The State Pension Credit Pilot Scheme Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1925)

The Pensions Regulator (Contribution Notices) (Sum Specified following Transfer) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1929)

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Levies) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1930)

The Vaccine Damage Payments (Specified Disease) (Revocation and Savings) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1988)

The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (No 4) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2126)

The Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2128)

The Equality Act 2010 (Sex Equality Rule) (Exceptions) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2132)

The Equality Act (Age Exceptions for Pension Schemes) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2133)

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2161)

The Equality Act (Age Exceptions for Pension Schemes) (Amendment) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2285)

The Welfare Reform Act 2009 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2377) (C. 116)

The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (No. 5) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2429)

The Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) (No.2) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2430

The Social Fund Cold Weather Payments (General) Amendment Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2442)

The Social Security (Contribution Conditions for Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2446)

The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2449)

The Income-related Benefits (Subsidy to Authorities) Amendment Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2481)

The Income-related Benefits (Subsidy to Authorities) (Temporary Accommodation) Amendment Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2509)

The Offshore Installations (Safety Zones) (No. 3) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2556)

Social Fund Cold Weather Payments (General) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations (S.I. 2010/2591)

The Up-rating of Basic Pension etc. (Designated Tax Year) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2650)

The Occupational, Personal and Stakeholder Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2659).

Disability Living Allowance

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the causes of the increase in take-up of disability living allowance over the last 10 years. [24555]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the rate of take-up and amount of unclaimed disability living allowance are not available. This is because eligibility is not established until entitlement is tested at the point of claim and because assessment of eligibility is more complex than for other benefits involving a detailed judgment of personal care and mobility needs.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation his Department undertook with disability groups prior to the announcement of proposed reductions in the levels of the mobility component of the disability living allowance for people living in care homes. [24556]

Maria Miller: Local authorities contracts with care homes will cover services to meet a resident's assessed needs. These will cover activities of daily living which may include providing access to doctors, dentists and local services such as libraries and banks. Local authorities should also take into account the resident's emotional and social needs as part of the assessment.

As part of the spending review all organisations are given the opportunity to contribute to the priorities of the spending review. Across Government, consultation on specific spending review measures was not undertaken. All measures are subject to the parliamentary process, and we are committed to the involvement of charities, third sector organisations and other disability organisations in the ongoing development of policy in these areas.

Fuel Poverty

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Energy Rebate Scheme; and what plans he has for his Department's contribution to the Government's fuel poverty strategy. [24506]

Steve Webb: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has lead responsibility for policies to address fuel poverty. My Department has worked closely with them and energy suppliers to deliver the Energy Rebate Scheme, which has been funded by energy suppliers.

The Energy Rebate Scheme has demonstrated that data sharing can be a valuable tool in identifying and helping customers vulnerable to fuel poverty. It has successfully delivered an £80 rebate this year on electricity bills to over 200,000 of the poorest pensioners. We will continue to work with DECC and energy suppliers to develop the Government's proposals to require energy suppliers to provide support with energy costs to vulnerable consumers. Data sharing is expected to form part of those proposals, on which DECC intend to consult shortly.

Winter fuel payments provide reassurance to older people that they can turn their heating up in winter. In winter 2009-10 we made over 12.6 million winter fuel payments. This winter we will continue to pay the winter fuel payment at the higher rate of £250 and £400 depending on age and circumstances.

Cold weather payments provide additional support to the most vulnerable in periods of exceptionally cold weather. The Government have announced that the temporary increase in cold weather payment of £25 for each week of cold weather will be made permanent.

Incapacity Benefit: Haemophilia

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future assessment of haemophiliacs affected by contaminated blood in respect of their eligibility to continue to receive incapacity benefit. [24403]

Chris Grayling: Over a three-year period beginning in spring 2011, all claimants of incapacity benefit will be reassessed using the work capability assessment to determine whether they are entitled to employment and support allowance. While we are committed to supporting those who cannot work because of a health condition, we currently have no plans to automatically exclude customers who are haemophiliacs affected by contaminated blood from re-assessment.

It is important to recognise that any health condition will affect people in different ways, manifested by a wide spectrum of symptoms and functional effects. That is why we assess each case individually to determine if someone is entitled to benefit and whether it is appropriate to help them prepare for a return to work.

This will not always involve a face-to-face assessment—where possible, decision makers may use the paper-based evidence available. However, in order to assess people fairly and accurately it is often necessary to assess them face-to-face, in order to look at how their condition affects them.

Income Support: Mortgages

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the likely effect on the number of home repossessions of the implementation of the proposed reduction in the level of support for mortgage interest paid to recipients of income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit. [24795]

Chris Grayling: The standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest was fixed at 6.08% by the last Administration. That rate was too generous and resulted in the vast majority of people getting more than their eligible mortgage interest liability, which was unfair to taxpayers.

The plans of the previous Government would have meant that the standard interest rate would have reverted to the formula of Bank of England base rate plus 1.58% from January 2011, which at present would produce a rate of 2.08%.

The Chancellor announced in the June 2010 Budget that the standard interest rate would be based on the Bank of England's published monthly average mortgage interest rate. Legislation to introduce this change came into effect from 1 October 2010 and the standard interest rate is currently 3.63%.

The Department conducted a thorough analysis of the likely impacts of this change, and we have included as much information as possible in the equality impact assessment published on the Department's website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

The Department is in the process of developing a model to estimate the impact of changes to support for mortgage interest on the number of repossessions. However any estimates will always be limited since detailed case-by-case information, such as arrears at the start of a claim, is not collected by the Department. The Department will consider whether the results can be used publicly once this is work is complete.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has told the Department that it expects lenders to continue to exercise forbearance where it is fair to do so for the borrower, and the borrower has a chance of paying off any arrears in the future. The Council of Mortgage Lenders thinks that where arrears levels increase for some borrowers as a result of the change in the standard interest rate this does not translate into an immediate possession risk.

At the comprehensive spending review 2010, the Chancellor announced funding for a one year extension to the temporary package of support for mortgage interest changes that had been due to expire in January 2011. This extension maintains the waiting period for new working age claimants at 13 weeks and the limit on eligible mortgage capital at £200,000, and provides additional support to homeowners facing difficulties.

Occupational Pensions

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of compulsory workplace pensions on the level of private sector job creation from 2012. [21957]

Steve Webb: While no analysis has been conducted on job creation directly, chapter two of the Workplace Pension Reform Regulations Impact Assessment published in January 2010:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/772/pdfs/uksiem_20100772_en.pdf

sets out our estimate of the impact of workplace pension reforms on employment.

This impact assessment builds on responses to the Department for Work and Pensions' employer attitudes surveys to estimate that, as a result of the reforms, private and not-for-profit employment will fall by between 10,000 and 80,000. The lower number is based on the number of employers expecting to reduce or restructure their work force. The higher number is based on the responses of a very small proportion of employers who reported that their most likely response would be to close their firms. This is consistent with departmental estimates of the impact on employment levels, based on the elasticity of labour demand to changes in non-labour costs.

Employers who remain in business but do not reduce or restructure their work force report that they expect to meet administrative and contribution costs associated with the reforms by reducing employee remuneration, increasing prices or reducing profits.

Poverty: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to reduce pensioner poverty in *(a)* Redcar constituency and *(b)* the North East. [16537]

Steve Webb: We have restored the earnings link for the basic state pension with a triple guarantee so that from April 2011 the basic state pension will increase by the highest of earnings, prices or 2.5%. Someone retiring today on a full basic state pension will receive £15,000 more over their retirement than they would have done under the old prices link. This commitment will benefit both existing and future pensioners by providing a more generous state pension giving a solid financial foundation from the state which is essential as part of the pensions system.

The Government's intention is that the majority of pension credit recipients will benefit from the full cash value of this increase.

We want to ensure that older people receive the help that they are entitled to. We are conducting a research study into the feasibility of using existing data to help to improve the take-up of pension credit.

We will help prevent people from falling into poverty in later life by simplifying the rules and regulations relating to pensions to help reinvigorate occupational pensions. We will encourage companies to offer high-quality pensions to all employees and will work with businesses and the industry to support auto enrolment.

Public Expenditure

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements he plans to make to monitor the effects of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the human rights of *(a)* disabled people, *(b)* children, *(c)* the unemployed and *(d)* carers in respect of benefits administered by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [20064]

Maria Miller: Policy changes are monitored through equality impact assessments and, in line with the Department's commitment on transparency, will be published when detailed policies and plans are finalised.

Social Security Benefits Agency: Pensions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what entitlement Benefits Agency staff have to a non-contributory pension. [22566]

Steve Webb: The Benefits Agency merged with the Employment Service in 2001 and the merged organisation was rebranded as Jobcentre Plus in April 2002. Jobcentre Plus is now an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Staff in the Department for Work and Pensions only have access to one non-contributory pension scheme, the Partnership pension account. No employee contribution is required, but if the employee prefers to contribute the employer will match employee contributions up to 3% of pay, as well as paying an employer contribution based on employee age.

New staff are automatically enrolled in the Nuvos pension scheme. The Nuvos pension scheme is a defined benefit pension scheme and has an employee contribution rate of 3.5% of pensionable earnings.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of adopting the consumer price index for uprating of those benefits for which his Department is responsible; and what the average amount is by which the income of affected households will be reduced as a result of that measure. [21914]

Chris Grayling: This change is very difficult to model for 2011-12 due to the previous Administration's policy of clawing back 1.5% for benefits uprated by the retail prices index in April 2011.

The rates of inflation to be used to uprate benefits in April 2011, were set in September 2010, and were 4.6% for RPI and 3.1 % for CPI.

Therefore, due to the 1.5% clawback on RPI, the outcome for uprating benefits would be the same for RPI as for CPI.

Further, the difference between Rossi and CPI in September 2010 was 1.4%.

Modelling the effect of all this on total benefit income for households with a mix of benefits previously uprated by either RPI or Rossi is complex, depending on the composition of those households and the complicated interactions of the various measures that have been announced at the Emergency Budget, June 2010 and since.

Given the small amounts involved, the estimated impact on poverty is not expected to be significant.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the payment of basic state pensions to higher rate taxpayers. [18086]

Steve Webb: We have not received any representations on the payment of the basic state pension to higher rate taxpayers.

State Retirement Pensions: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in Dartford constituency are in receipt of *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [23722]

Steve Webb: The document "Caseloads for selected benefits by 2010 Parliamentary Constituencies, February 2010" is available in the Library or via the following link and includes figures for pension credit and state pension. The state pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_summary/benefit_new_parlc_table_feb10.xls

Unemployment Benefits

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of out-of-work benefits who actively choose to receive such benefits; and what mechanism his Department uses to identify such persons. [17222]

Chris Grayling: The benefits system provides practical help and financial support for people who are unemployed and looking for work. It also provides people with additional income when their earnings are low, if they are bringing up children, care for someone, are ill or have a disability.

To qualify for a particular benefit an individual must meet the conditions that the Government specifies. For example, the conditions for receiving jobseeker's allowance are that an individual must be available for, and actively seeking, work. The entitlement conditions for receipt of benefit are set out in the relevant social security regulations for the benefit(s) concerned.

Welfare State: Reform

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the contents of the proposed Welfare Reform White Paper were disclosed to press outlets prior to any announcement to hon. Members. [23368]

Chris Grayling: Ministers announced the content of the Welfare Reform White Paper to hon. Members in the Chamber before disclosing the full details to the media.

Welfare to Work

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what evidence he is gathering on the ability of private and third sector providers to administer welfare-to-work programmes for the proposed Work programme. [24439]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently assessing tenders for the Framework for Employment Related Services against five principal qualification criteria:

supply chain management;
implementation;
stakeholder engagement;
contract performance; and
delivery challenges.

Bidders will be evaluated both on their demonstration of how they will meet the requirements of the framework and their demonstration of past achievements in delivering against these criteria, either for the Department or other contracting organisations.

Once the Work programme goes live we will establish a tough performance management regime to ensure providers deliver to the required standards.

Work Capability Assessment: Autism

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training health care professionals carrying out work capability assessments receive on autism; and whether such training forms part of their continuing professional development. [24554]

Chris Grayling: All health care professionals working for Atos Healthcare who carry out assessments for employment and support allowance are issued with evidence-based protocols on mental health conditions, including information on Autistic Spectrum Disorders, as part of their induction training.

In addition, all health care professionals are required to engage in a programme of continuing medical education. Atos, in conjunction with DWP, have developed a number of training modules in Autistic Spectrum Disorders to support this programme. These include a "learning set" on ADHD and Asperger Syndrome for employed health care professionals, a distance learning module with accompanying DVD on Asperger Syndrome for sessional doctors, and a presentation on Autism at a medical conference attended by all employed health care professionals in 2008. Atos have also developed and issued a further distance learning module for sessional doctors called "Life with Autism—seeing the individual" this year (2010).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of persons subject to an anti-social behaviour order ceased the antisocial behaviour after the *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third interventions under such an order in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [14079]

Mrs May: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice do not identify the circumstances that led to the issuing of an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) or whether behaviour has ceased. After an ASBO has been issued, the only information that is centrally collected is where a breach of an ASBO was proven in court to have occurred.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* North Tyneside, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England are subject to an antisocial behaviour order. [24969]

James Brokenshire: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued, cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of ASBOs issued are collated at Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level, rather than county area level. North Tyneside is in the Northumbria CJS area.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Northumbria Criminal Justice System (CJS) area between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2008 is 463. The corresponding figures for the north-east Government office region (GOR) and England are 957 and 16,091 respectively. These figures include ASBOs made on application which became available from 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence, which became available for offences committed on or after 2 December 2002.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (for a minimum of two years) or made until further order. Furthermore, courts have the power to vary ASBOs, including their durations and the details of any such variations are not centrally collected by the Ministry of Justice. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department to complete its review of antisocial behaviour orders. [24973]

James Brokenshire: We are reviewing the tools and powers that are available to police forces and other agencies to deal with antisocial behaviour including the antisocial behaviour order. The review will ensure that in future, the police and their partners have an effective toolkit that is quick, practical and easy to use.

We will be consulting on the findings of the review from January 2011, as set out in the Home Office business plan.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Rossendale and Darwen

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* made and *(b)* breached in Rossendale and Darwen constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [25363]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are collated at criminal justice system (CJS) area level, rather than constituency area level. Rossendale and Darwen is in the Lancashire CJS area.

The latest figures cover the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. These figures show that in 2008, 53 ASBOs were issued in the Lancashire CJS area and 54 ASBOs issued in Lancashire were proved in court to have been breached for the first time.

An ASBO can be issued in one CJS area and breached in another. ASBOs may also be breached more than once, and in more than one year. As a result, while the latter figure represents instances when an ASBO was breached for the first time in 2008, some of these will be breaches of ASBOs issued in previous years.

Arrests: Drugs

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for drug-related offences occurred in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* Brighton and Hove in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [25104]

James Brokenshire: Arrests data are collected at police force level only and no data are available for Brighton and Hove. Data for Sussex police and England and Wales are shown in the table. These data cover arrests only for offences which are classed under "drug offences". Drugs may have been involved in other arrests but it is not possible to separately identify these.

The data provided in response are within the public domain and published annually in chapter 1 of the 'Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Police Powers and Procedures', copies of which are available online and in the Library of the House.

Persons arrested for drug offences, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Number

	Sussex police	*England and Wales*
2004-05	1,550	84,800
2005-06	1,948	88,353
2006-07	1,853	88,393
2007-08	2,306	104,532
2008-09	2,247	115,341

Arrests: Stop and Search

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many arrests were made following section 60 stop and searches in each *(a)* police authority in England and Wales and *(b)* local authority in London in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such arrests was of a person from a (i) white, (ii) black, (iii) Asian and (iv) other minority ethnic group; [25086]

(2) how many stop and searches were carried out under section 60 powers in each *(a)* police authority in England and Wales and *(b)* local authority in London in each of the last five years; [25097]

(3) what proportion of all section 60 stop and searches in each *(a)* police authority in England and Wales and (b) local authority in London was of people from a (i) white, (ii) black, (iii) Asian and (iv) other minority ethnic group in each of the last five years. [25098]

Nick Herbert: The information requested on stops and searches for each of the last five years (most recent data) is provided in the tables placed in the House Library.

Figures on ethnicity of those stopped and searched use self-defined ethnicity for 2006-07 onwards. Figures on this basis for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are incomplete and therefore figures have been provided on ethnic appearance instead, which means that the categories do not match directly. Any comparisons before and after 2006-07 should therefore be made with caution.

Asylum: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 546W, on asylum: finance, if she will obtain and place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by Sodexo on the operation of the Section 4 payment card. [25354]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not in possession of the guidance issued to retailers on the operation of the section 4 payment card. Sodexo have discussed with each individual retailer the technical specification of the card, as well as their legislative and social responsibilities. The outcome of these discussions were incorporated into the legally binding agreements between Sodexo and the retailers. These agreements are considered commercially confidential and as such are not disclosable.

Asylum: Public Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the likely effects on the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* quality of services provided to asylum seekers of the proposed amendment to the asylum seekers dispersal programme which would relocate asylum seekers away from Glasgow; and if she will make a statement; [25331]

(2) what provision will be made for asylum seekers in Glasgow whose applications have been fully determined under contractual arrangements with new housing and social care service providers. [25334]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* The termination of the contract with Glasgow city council will lead to savings for the public purse as Glasgow city council are the most expensive housing provider outside London. There are no plans to move asylum seekers away from Glasgow and the alternative providers operating within Glasgow are contractually bound to provide the same quality of services as Glasgow city council. The Secretary of State has no plans to make a statement.

Community Development: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future level of funding to be made available under her Department's Community Fund in the comprehensive spending review period. [24285]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 16 November 2010]*: While we do now know the overall spending review settlement for the Department, it will take time for us to determine what the overall settlement means for individual programmes, including the Community Fund. We will notify grant recipients on the future of these funding streams as soon as we are able.

Crime

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has for implementation of the cross-Government hate crime action plan; and whether there will be changes to the plan's timetable. [25063]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to tackling hate crime and we are currently implementing the programme for government commitment on the improved collection of hate crime data. The Hate Crime Action Plan was the previous Administration's response to tackling hate crime and included 70 actions for Government and local areas. A number of these have been completed and, while work on some of the others will continue, we think that a new approach to tackling hate crime, that reduces burdens while empowering local areas, is needed. Work on this is under way and we will make an announcement in due course.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of contracts between her Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24932]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department's spend with Royal Mail since 2004-05 is detailed in the following table:

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2004-05	76,371
2005-06	93,077
2006-07	134,772
2007-08	301,870
2008-09	43,581
2009-10	41,184
2010-11	24,381
Grand total	715,236

Note:
FY 2010-11 is YTD figure as of October 2010

Due to changes to the Home Department's accounting system, spend with Royal Mail for the period 1997-98 is not readily available.

There is no contract spend for the Post Office Ltd and no current demand for the services provided by them.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what services provided by her Department were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier; and what the monetary value was of each such contract in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available in each case. [24933]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department has no service contract spend for the Post Office Ltd or any which has become the subject of a contract with another supplier. Information relating to the Post Office Ltd for the period 1997-98 is not readily available due to changes to the Home Department's accounting system.

There is no current demand for the services offered by Post Office Ltd.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which services of her Department have been the subject of a contract awarded in a tender process in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid since 1997-98. [24934]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department has no service contracts that have been the subject of a tender process in which Post Office Ltd have submitted a bid, and for which spend records are available. This is due to changes to the Home Department's accounting system. There is no current demand for the services offered by Post Office Ltd.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24935]

Nick Herbert: Mail services are reviewed to ensure that adequate contracts are in place to meet the needs of the business while driving down costs to the public purse. The Home Department already use the services of the Post Office network through various Royal Mail services, including collection, onsite franking machines, and delivery. Home Office procurement also conducts regular meetings with Royal Mail to ensure both business and supplier needs are met, while continuing to improve services and drive down the cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will undertake an equalities impact assessment of any proposed budgetary reductions in her Department, with particular reference to their effect on injured police officers on restricted duties. [13912]

Mrs May: An initial equality screening of the Home Office comprehensive spending review 2010 was published on 20 October. The spending review settlement is the start of a longer process of detailed budget allocations, and equality impact assessments will be conducted as part of that process as appropriate. This will involve looking at the impact that funding changes may have on a range of diverse groups, and will pick up any potential impact on police officers on restricted duties.

Dorset Police: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to Dorset Police Service in 2009-10; and how much funding will be allocated in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [25651]

Nick Herbert: The information requested for years 2009-10 and 2010-11 is set out in the following table.

Detail on 2011-12 funding allocations for individual forces, including Dorset, will be announced in early December when the provisional police settlements will be placed before the House of Commons.

Dorset Government Grants	*£ million*
2009-10[1]	74.9
2010-11[2, 3]	75.7

[1, 2] Government Grants comprise: Home Office Police Grant; Department for Communities and Local Government Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates; Crime Fighting Fund; Basic Command Unit Fund; Neighbourhood Policing Fund; Rule two Grant; Capital Grant. Excludes Counter Terrorism Funding.

[3] Takes account of in-year reductions in July 2010.

Driving Offences

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to increase the level of *(a)* detection and *(b)* enforcement of motoring offences committed by individuals without UK licences. [24834]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 November 2010]:* Detection and enforcement of offences are operational matters for the police. Apart from driving without a licence being an offence in itself, those who commit the offence may also be guilty of other motoring offences and more likely to be involved in road traffic collisions. The police fully recognise the seriousness of such behaviour and its consequences and enforce the relevant offences vigorously. To help in this enforcement they are able at any time to access at the roadside accurate and up to date driver licensing information (including a photograph where appropriate). There are also good IT links between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the courts to assist in effective prosecution of offenders. Where an offence carries licence penalty points, there are provisions for endorsement to be made on the driver record, rather than the licence itself, for future reference.

Where the person without a licence is a foreign national or does not have a satisfactory UK address there are provisions to require an immediate roadside deposit against payment of any fixed penalty or court-imposed fine for specified offences.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she sought submissions from the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs during her Department's 2010 drugs strategy consultation. [24862]

James Brokenshire: Yes. The Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) published its response to the Drug Strategy Consultation (2010) on its website. It is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/acmd/

We are continuing to work closely with the ACMD to reduce the harms caused by drugs.

Entry Clearances: Business

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what limits she plans to set on the numbers of entrepreneur visas available each year; [23597]

(2) what estimate she has made of the annual cost to the public purse of administering the proposed entrepreneur visa. [23598]

Damian Green: We will announce full details of our proposals for the entrepreneur category in the coming weeks.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bogus language schools have been closed in Bournemouth West constituency in each year since 1997. [23709]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's Register of Tier 4 Sponsors currently contains 2,287 education providers that are licensed to bring overseas students to the UK. Since the introduction of the register, 55 sponsors have had their licences revoked, one of these is a language school located in Bournemouth.

Global Peace and Unity Conference

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any speakers wishing to enter the UK to speak at the Global Peace and Unity Conference on 23-24 October 2010 were prevented from doing so by her Department. [22866]

Damian Green: It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases.

Immigrants: Detention

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who were *(a)* detained for immigration purposes and then deported and *(b)* detained for immigration purposes and then released were detained for more than (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) one year and (iv) two years. [25398]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* The information requested is recorded in the following table:

Individuals leaving the immigration detention estate[1, 2] between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010

	Removed[3]	*Released[4]*	*Total*
Under 3 months	7,265	3,980	11,245
Over 3 months, but under 6 months	577	323	900
Over 6 months, but under 1 year	239	167	406
Over 1 year, but under 2 years	46	62	108
Over 2 years	15	21	36

Individuals leaving the immigration detention estate[1, 2] between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010

	Removed[3]	*Released*[4]	*Total*
All	8,142	4,553	12,695

[1] These figures are based on internal management information. Figures used are subject to change and may under or over record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after extracts were previously taken. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, and may not agree with previously published information.

[2] These numbers do not refer to those individuals who would have been held under immigration powers within the prison estate, nor does the length of detention indicated include any time previously spent in immigration detention within the prison estate prior to transfer to the UK Border Agency detention estate.

[3] Those individuals listed as "removed" include persons who were deported or removed by the UK Border Agency, and those who departed voluntarily from the United Kingdom.

[4] Those individuals listed as "released" includes persons who were granted immigration bail, received a form of leave, were released unconditionally, were removed to custodial detention, or were held under the Mental Health Act in appropriate institutions.

From these data it is clear that, in approximately 90% of cases, those individuals held under Immigration Act powers within the immigration detention estate, were either removed or released within three months of entering the estate.

Khat

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 October, *Official Report*, columns 70-71W, on khat, when she expects to have sufficient data to provide a robust breakdown of estimates of khat use by ethnic origin. [25148]

James Brokenshire: Estimates of khat use broken down by ethnic origin are expected to be published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Drugs Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2010-11 British Crime Survey which is due for release in July 2011.

Metropolitan Police Status Dog Unit

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs have been collected by the Metropolitan police status dog unit in the last 12 months; how many such dogs were returned to their owners; and what the cost to the Metropolitan police was of that work in that period. [25790]

Nick Herbert: The information is not collected centrally.

Neighbourhood Policing Fund

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to the Neighbourhood Policing Fund in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what proportion of funding from that Fund was allocated to police community support officers in each of those years. [25044]

Nick Herbert: The amounts allocated to forces through the Neighbourhood Policing Fund were £332 million in 2009-10 and £341 million in 2010-11. Approximately 90% is ring fenced for police community support officers (PCSOs)—contributing up to 75% of the salary costs of PCSOs engaged in neighbourhood policing.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to publish her Department's response to the consultation on the proposed changes to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A; [25464]

(2) which organisations her Department informed about the consultation on the proposed changes to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A; and on what basis these organisations were selected. [25465]

Nick Herbert: All consultations on changes to the Codes of Practice are carried out in accordance with section 67(4) of PACE. This sets out that the statutory consultees are the Association of Police Authorities, the Association of Chief Police Officers for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the General Council of the Bar, the Law Society of England and Wales, and the Institute of Legal Executives.

In addition to the statutory bodies we have also consulted with other relevant organisations, i.e. Liberty, Justice, the Police Federation, the National Police Improvement Agency, the Criminal Prosecution Service, the Criminal Bar Association, the Criminal Law Solicitors Association, the Independent Police Complaints Commission, and the Police Superintendents Association.

There are no plans to publish the responses to the consultation.

Police: Buildings

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many buildings owned by Kent police are not in use for operational purposes; and what the *(a)* location and *(b)* market value is of each such building. [25224]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held centrally. Buildings owned by Kent police are a matter for the relevant police authority, and questions about them are therefore best addressed by the chief constable.

Police: Computers

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will be responsible for the National Police Computer following the implementation of her proposal to establish the National Crime Agency. [24646]

Mrs May *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* The Home Office is currently working with the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA), and the wider police service, to determine appropriate arrangements for running those functions that will continue after the NPIA is phased out.

Stop and Search: Complaints

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were made against each police authority on the use of stop and search powers in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such complaints was upheld in each such year. [25087]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Statistics relating to the police complaints system are matters for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and they will write to the hon. Member directly.

Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of stops and searches of individuals from each ethnic background were conducted in *(a)* each police authority area and *(b)* England in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [25791]

Nick Herbert: The information requested on stops and searches in 2008-09 (latest available) is provided in the tables placed in the House Library.

Summertime: Crime

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* street crime, *(b)* burglary and *(c)* criminal damage were recorded during the week (i) prior to and (ii) after the end of Daylight Saving Time in each of the last five years. [26109]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not available. The Home Office publish crime statistics on a quarterly basis only and weekly data are not available centrally.

UK Border Agency: Finance

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget of the UK Border Agency will be in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; and what the real terms change compared to 2010-11 will be to each such budget in each of those years. [24004]

Mrs May *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* Final detailed budgets have not yet been agreed. The priority of the Agency remains to secure the border and to control migration while we play our part in reducing the public deficit. We are committed to programmes such as e-Borders and the Immigration Case Working system that will help to reduce the threat of terrorism, crime and immigration abuse and replace costly and outmoded paper work, respectively. These programmes will help improve our productivity and efficiency and will mean that we can target our resources on those people likely to cause most harm to the UK. As a result the UK Border Agency will be able to deliver its objectives while reducing the budget by up to 20% in real terms over the next four years.

Visas

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of people who have overstayed the leave granted on short term visas. [25497]

Damian Green: We do not currently hold the information to answer this question. However provision of this information will be enabled by the e-Borders system when it becomes fully operational, planned for March 2015.

We are therefore unable to answer the question as tabled.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21782]

Alistair Burt: The total spend for Ministers on Government hospitality was as follows:

(a) September 2010: £885

(b) October 2010: £1,155.

These figures are based on services used and paid for in the months of September and October 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on administrative costs in respect of foreign transactions in the latest period for which figures are available. [24069]

Alistair Burt: Foreign transactions are carried out at all our posts overseas and in the UK. Administrative costs for these transactions are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23393]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made any payments for services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Middle East

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who he met during his recent visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, if he will place in the Library copies of material supplied to him by the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority during the visit; and if he will make a statement. [24946]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met a range of key players during his recent visit including the Israeli President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Defence Minister and the Palestinian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. He also visited the parents of Gilad Shalit and met Palestinians involved in non-violent resistance.

He did not receive any written material from either the Government of Israel or the Palestinian Authority during his visit to the region.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months with his international counterparts to ensure that Hamas accepts the Quartet Principles and joins peace negotiations; and if he will make a statement. [24869]

Alistair Burt: Hamas' ideology of violence directly undermines prospects for peace in the region. We will continue to call on Hamas, with international partners, to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to promote (i) Palestinian reconciliation and (ii) full acceptance of the Quartet Principles by all parties in the region; and if he will make a statement. [24870]

Alistair Burt: The UK supports President Abbas' efforts on Palestinian reconciliation which is the key component in reuniting the Gaza strip and West Bank under one authority. But this needs to be a Palestinian-led process and in accordance with Palestinian law.

We have made it consistently clear that we will engage with any Palestinian Government that shows through their words and actions that they are committed to the Quartet Principles. President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad's government clearly meets this commitment and has made huge progress in reforming and building the institutions of state.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Israel on security threats from Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [24871]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Prime Minister Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Lieberman during his visit to Israel. They discussed a number of Middle East Peace Process related issues including security concerns.

We recognise Israel's concerns regarding Hamas, who continue to pursue an ideology of violence which directly undermines prospects for peace in the region.

We call on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart during his recent visit to Israel on Israel's security concerns; and if he will make a statement. [24872]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed both the Middle East Peace Process and the UK's cooperation with Israel on Iran with Prime Minister Netanyahu during his recent visit to the region. He underlined the UK's view that direct talks offer the best opportunity for progress on the Middle East Peace Process and that this is important to Israel's long term security.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement. [R] [24947]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation with Secretary Clinton and Senator Mitchell during his recent visit to Washington. We believe that direct talks offer the best opportunity to achieve a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian State living in peace and security alongside a safe and secure Israel and their other neighbours in the region.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the acquisition of anti-aircraft missiles by Hamas since September 2010; what discussions he has had with the Government of Israel on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [25052]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports that Hamas have acquired anti-aircraft missiles. We have long made it clear that the arming and funding of Hamas, and other Palestinian Rejectionist Groups, is unacceptable.

We recognise Israel's legitimate security needs. We have underlined the need for Hamas to end rocket attacks on Israel. We call on them to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles.

Middle East: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in the West Bank since September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [24881]

Alistair Burt: The impact of the occupation in the West Bank remains an important concern. We welcome the improvements in movement and access that have taken place over the last year. This shows that access restrictions can be reduced without compromising Israel's security. We look to Israel to work with the Palestinian Authority to further ease restrictions.

The EU continues to follow closely the cases of human rights defenders arrested in the West Bank. We look to Israel to ensure that those detained have access to a fair trial in accordance with international law.

We recognise that the Palestinian Authority security forces are making West Bank towns safer for ordinary Palestinians and combating terrorism. However, we remain concerned about allegations of ill treatment of Palestinian detainees and call for an end to this.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza since September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [24883]

Alistair Burt: The UK is concerned by the humanitarian, economic and political situation in Gaza.

Gaza's aid dependency will continue until the economy recovers. There needs to be progress on exports, and improved access to land and fishing areas. The best way to safeguard Israel's security is through empowering Gaza's business fraternity.

During his recent visit, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed the steps that the Government of Israel have taken to improve access but underlined the need for further measures to secure change on the ground.

At the same time it is important to remember that Hamas continues to pursue an ideology of violence which directly undermines prospects for peace in the region. We call on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the economic situation in the Palestinian territories since September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [R] [24999]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Gaza with the Israeli Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Defence Minister during his visit to the region. He welcomed the steps Israel has taken to improve access but underlined the need for further steps to secure change on the ground. I also made clear to the House on 8 November the need to support economic revitalisation in Gaza.

To help support the Gazan economy the Government have recently announced a further £2 million in new funding to support the recovery of Gaza's private sector. We are also supporting the United Nations and Palestinian Authority teams working to facilitate access to imports in Gaza.

The West Bank economy is clearly benefiting from stability and good governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Fayyad. Israel has also played its part by relaxing many movement and access restrictions, making it easier for businesses to operate and grow. Prime Minister Fayyad is aware of the challenges that lie ahead and is trying to address these through his reform agenda, which we support.

Muslim Brotherhood

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of potential links between the UK offices of the Muslim Brotherhood and *(a)* Hamas, *(b)* Islamic Jihad and *(c)* other organisations. [24575]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports which suggest that there are significant historic linkages between the Muslim Brotherhood, its overseas affiliates and Hamas. Historically the Brotherhood has presented Hamas as a legitimate resistance movement for the Palestinian people.

The Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) are the Brotherhood's representative in the UK. MAB in the UK publically rejects violence and state that they work for wider Muslim integration into British society.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Israeli Government on the *(a)* Al Araqib and other unrecognised villages and *(b)* UN Human Rights Committee's recommendations of July 2010 on access to health structures, education, water and electricity for residents of those villages. [24793]

Alistair Burt: We are concerned that Israel's minority Arab population, including Bedouin Arab minorities, are suffering institutional, legal and societal inequality and discrimination. We remain concerned that the Israeli Government's Goldberg Commission's 2008 recommendations, which included a recommendation to recognise most of the remaining unrecognised Bedouin villages, has not brought about an end to the demolition of Bedouin houses and villages.

During the recent UN Human Rights Committee hearing in Geneva on 13 and 14 July along with UN colleagues, we raised these concerns with the Government of Israel. Israel told the Committee that it was in ongoing discussions with Bedouin leaders about housing access and housing rights. We continue to support calls made by the EU and the UN for a genuine and satisfactory solution to these problems that the Bedouin communities face. We have made it clear that Israel should take the steps necessary to ensure that the rights of these minorities are protected.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Coroners: Conflict of Interests

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Attorney-General if he will review the provisions governing the relationship between coroners and police forces to ensure that there is no possibility of a conflict of interests arising. [24808]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for coroner law and policy, but no operational role in the service delivered by coroners. Consequently, my Department has no locus to direct or manage the relationship between coroners and the police and there are no provisions specifically on this issue. However, Ministry of Justice officials have been working with the UK Missing Persons Bureau, part of the National Policing Improvement Agency, and the Coroners' Society of England and Wales to ensure that conflicts of interest between the police service and Coroners are minimised.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Publications

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the recommendations relevant to her Office's policy responsibilities contained in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being by the Government Office for Science; if her Office will ensure that her Office takes steps to promote well-being; if she will ensure that her Office's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if she will make a statement. [22908]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 9 November 2010]*: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equalities and I welcome the conclusions of the Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing and will ensure that the Department acts on these as appropriate for the benefit of its staff. The Government Equalities Office is aware of the ways in which it can promote wellbeing and positive mental health for both its own staff and in its policy making.

Ethnic Minorities

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent under each budget heading on holding events relating to the roll-out of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors' Taskforce; and how many staff were involved in organising these events. [22068]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office spent a total of £139,681 on hosting 16 events across Britain under the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce programme. This was established in May 2008 to find practical ways to increase the numbers of ethnic minority women councillors.

Events were held to raise awareness and understanding of the role of a councillor, three GEO staff members were involved in supporting the work of the taskforce.

The breakdown of the expenditure was as follows:

Budget Heading	*£*
Venue hire and catering for 16 events including childcare to enable delegates to attend events	41,793
Event speakers/facilitators including travel and subsistence for taskforce members and strategic partners to 16 events	13,040
Event organisers' management costs	82, 521
Photography	2,327

Government Equalities Office: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many Equality Act 2010 training events held or sponsored by the *(a)* Government Equalities Office and *(b)* Equality and Human Rights Commission there have been; how many attendees there were at each such event; how many future such events the Government Equalities Office plans to hold; and what estimate she has made of the cost under each budget heading of each such event. [24205]

Lynne Featherstone: The 2010 Equality Act was an important streamlining of equality legislation. The Impact Assessment, published in April 2010 shows a total benefit figure (private and public sector) for the Equality Act 2010 of £75 million over 10 years, which includes a £66.5 million benefit for the private sector. In order that these benefits are realised, both the Government Equalities Office and Equality and the Human Rights Commission have provided a range of support and guidance on their websites as well as speaking at externally organised events. We intend to continue this approach.

The Government Equalities Office sponsored Citizens Advice to develop a training programme for its national advice session supervisors and to cascade training to its network of advisors. The cost of the development of this package was £15,000. 11 training sessions have been held so far across England and Wales, taking place between 22 September and 22 October 2010. A total of 146 Citizen's Advice Bureau supervisors attended these sessions. A further 10 sessions are planned.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission held 14 training events for a number of organisations on the Equality Act 2010, at a total cost of £1,480. These events were held between 24 September 2009 and 11 November 2010. The total number of attendees at these events was recorded as 228.

Sexuality: Housing

Bob Stewart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities for what reasons housing associations require applicants to provide information on their sexual identity, religious belief and gender identity under the Equality Act 2010. [25147]

Lynne Featherstone: Housing associations are not required to collect this information under the Equality Act 2010.

Housing associations and others may choose to collect such data, to assist their compliance with the provisions in the Act (e.g. to ensure that their policies do not discriminate against people with those protected characteristics or in order to establish whether their policies and practices meet the particular needs of the people who access their services).

Women's National Commission

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the *(a)* membership and *(b)* functions of the organisations to be established to take over the work of the Women's National Commission (WNC) will be; and which organisation will undertake the WNC's international work. [26093]

Lynne Featherstone: We announced on 14 October 2010 that the core functions of the Women's National Commission (WNC) will be brought into the Government Equalities Office (GEO). This means that the work traditionally carried out by the WNC—ensuring that women's voices are heard at the centre of Government—will be carried out by the GEO.

We will be consulting on the new approach in the new year; this will include how we engage with former WNC partners and the most appropriate way to deliver international work.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities who was consulted on the equality impact assessment on the proposed closure of the Women's National Commission; and on what date *(a)* that consultation and *(b)* the equality impact assessment was completed. [26094]

Lynne Featherstone: The review of public bodies was a commitment set out in the coalition agreement, and was announced in the Queen's Speech on 25 May 2010.

As part of the review process:

the Women's National Commission was asked to respond to the three tests set by the Cabinet Office as part of the review of public bodies—a response was received on 29 June

The Minister for Equalities met with the chair of the Commission on 20 July to seek her views

Over 70 women's organisations wrote to the Minister for Women and Equality about the WNC's inclusion in the review of public bodies and provided information

The GEO held regular meetings with WNC staff during the period of the review and met with trade union officials.

This information was used to inform the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA was completed once the decision to abolish the WNC had been confirmed and published on 14 October, when the outcome of the review was announced.

The GEO will be consulting on the new approach to engaging and listening to women in the new year.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Dr Poulter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take into account whether destinations for flights have low carbon economies, in his proposals for changes to levels of air passenger duty; [24770]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of changes to air passenger duty on people with family links to the Caribbean; [24771]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of increases in the level of air passenger duty on *(a)* the number of airline routes operating from the UK and *(b)* the level of carbon dioxide emissions from such flights; [24772]

(4) if he will bring forward proposals for higher rates of air passenger duty for short haul flights within Europe. [24773]

Justine Greening: The existing rates of APD were set and legislated for by the previous Government. An impact assessment was published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/apd-reform-ia.pdf

The June Budget stated that the Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty. Major changes will be subject to consultation.

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the levels of sovereign debt held by banks based in the UK in respect of *(a)* the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* Portugal. [25233]

Mr Hoban: As part of the stress tests carried out earlier this year by the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS), all major EU banks including those in the UK published data on their European sovereign debt holdings, including for the Republic of Ireland and Portugal.

The report from CEBS was published at the end of July and can be found online at:

http://www.c-ebs.org/EuWideStressTesting.aspx

In addition, the Financial Services Authority monitors the financial positions of UK banks and their holdings of different asset classes for supervisory purposes. This information is not released publicly.

Copyright: Music

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on the revenue received by the Exchequer of raising to 75 years the period in which musicians' works receive copyright protection. [25162]

Mr Gauke: Royalties are not recorded separately in self-assessment, and so it is not possible to estimate the associated tax yields, nor the impact of extending copyright protection.

Crown Currency Exchange

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate UK Financial Investments has made of the liabilities of financial limitation in public ownership arising from the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange Ltd. [24026]

Mr Hoban: Crown Currency Exchange Ltd has not entered into public ownership as a result of going into administration.

Therefore there is no requirement on UK Financial Investments (UKFI) to make any estimates of the financial liability arising from the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange Ltd.

Economic Governance Task Force

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his letter to other EU member states of 9 July 2010, on the European Taskforce on EU Economic Governance, by what mechanisms he proposes to make Ministers accountable to other member states. [24822]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 18 November 2010]:* In the same way that our economy is subject to scrutiny from organisations such as the IMF and OECD, the Government report annually on our economic policies to ECOFIN and benefit from reports on the policies of other member states, as set out in article 126 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union (the stability and growth pact). We believe that it is right that we should co-operate with this process because of its contribution to macro-economic stability in the EU, but that co-operation should in no way undermine the fiscal sovereignty of the UK.

Although we do submit information to the EU under the stability and growth pact as required in section 5 of the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1993, this is presented to Parliament first. This was reinforced when discussions on the EU semester took place earlier this year and the Chancellor secured a clear provision in the stability and growth pact code of conduct to ensure that the UK will continue to send its Budget to the EU only once it has been presented to Parliament. All other member states are now required to send draft budgetary plans to the EU under the EU semester.

Furthermore, while the EU can make recommendations on our fiscal position, by virtue of protocol 15 of the treaty, we are under no obligation to act on such recommendations. While we believe it is important to be transparent to other member states through the processes outlined above, we ensured that agreement reached at the European Taskforce on Economic Governance preserves the UK's fiscal sovereignty.

European Financial Stability Mechanism

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the European Financial Stability Mechanism procedure can only be activated by a member state in line with the procedure prescribed by Article 3 of the regulation establishing that mechanism and not by qualified majority voting; [25686]

(2) whether under the regulation establishing the European Financial Stability Mechanism the final decision on the provision of financial assistance may only be taken by the ECOFIN Council acting on a qualified majority vote. [25688]

Mr Hoban: The terms of operation of the European Financial Stability Mechanism are set out in EU Council Regulation No. 407/2010. Article 3 of this Regulation states that a member state seeking assistance should discuss its requirements with the Commission (in liaison with the European Central Bank) and submit an adjustment programme to the Commission and the Economic and Financial Committee. Assistance is granted by a qualified majority decision of ECOFIN, acting on a proposal from the Commission.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the introduction of a fair fuel stabiliser. [25187]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each year from 2000-01 to 2007-08. [23499]

Justine Greening: The following table shows the amounts spent with the Institute for Fiscal Studies by HM Treasury since 2002-03.

	£000
2002-03	55
2003-04	28
2004-05	14
2005-06	1
2006-07	18
2007-08	21

Information on spending prior to 2002-03 is no longer available due to the introduction of a new accounting system in that year.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 1 September 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay regarding Keith Brown. [25476]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* I have replied to my hon. Friend.

National Insurance Contributions: Southern England

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of extending the proposed national insurance holiday for new firms of 10 or fewer employees to companies in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the South East and *(c)* the East of England. [25658]

Mr Gauke: The Government published details of how the regional employer national insurance contributions holiday for new businesses was costed as part of the Budget 2010 policy costings document. Had the holiday been extended to other regions, the estimated total cost on the same basis over three years would have been, for extension to *(a)* Greater London, £250 million; *(b)* the South East, £250 million; *(c)* the East of England, £160 million. The Government's policy is, however, to target support on those countries and regions most reliant on public sector employment.

PAYE

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what target date HM Revenue and Customs has set to clear the backlog of outstanding Pay As You Earn customer reviews. [15371]

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff HM Revenue and Customs has deployed to work on the recovery of PAYE tax underpaid between the tax years starting *(a)* 2000 to 2007 and *(b)* 2008-09; [15918]

(2) whether deadlines will be set for HM Revenue and Customs to recover tax underpaid in previous years under PAYE. [15920]

Mr Gauke: The National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS) introduced in 2009 automates the end of year reconciliation process. This automated process is being used to reconcile the 2008-09 and 2009-10 tax years. The exercise commenced in September 2010 and the bulk of the exercise is planned to be completed by Christmas 2010.

HMRC is also setting in place a programme to complete the clearance of PAYE 'legacy' open cases that arise from earlier years (prior to 2008-09) and the previous PAYE computer system, with a view for their clearance by the end of 2012 and by reference to the normal statutory time limits for their undertaking.

HMRC has approximately 10,300 people who are employed on all aspects of PAYE and self-assessment processing. This includes identifying where customers have underpaid or overpaid tax whether they are self employed or employed. Separate information on the number of staff on the recovery of underpaid tax from PAYE is not available.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has allocated for reform of the PAYE system to enable the collection of information about tax and other calculations in real time. [24864]

Mr Gauke: The Government announced their intention to consult on the next stage of improving PAYE through the use of real time information as part of the spending review announcement on 20 October 2010.

HMRC is currently in the process of negotiating contracts in this area and therefore, for reasons of commercial sensitivity, this information cannot be made available.

Revenue and Customs

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met representatives of staff at HM Revenue and Customs; and what topics were discussed at the meeting. [24818]

Mr Gauke: On 29 September, as Minister responsible for HMRC, I met with representatives of the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and Association of Revenue and Customs (ARC), the two unions recognised by HMRC. This meeting followed an invitation from PCS. The topics discussed at the meeting were the potential impact of spending cuts on HMRC and its ability to narrow the tax gap and the impact on the civil service of the Government agenda, including possible changes on pensions, compensation and pay.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* benefits, *(b)* tax credits and *(c)* pensions paid from the public purse (i) are uprated by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), (ii) are uprated by the Retail Prices Index but will move to the CPI following the implementation of the proposals in the June 2010 Budget and (iii) are uprated by another index but will move to the CPI following the implementation of the proposals in the June 2010 Budget. [24776]

Mr Gauke: Information on past uprating practices for social security benefits can be found in the previous uprating statements to the House prepared by the Department for Work and Pensions; in the case of tax credits, this information can be found in past Budgets and pre-Budget reports published by the previous administration.

As announced in the June 2010 Budget, the switch to the Consumer Prices Index will apply to all benefits and tax credits that were previously uprated by either the Retail Prices Index or the Rossi index. This change will also apply to public service pensions through the statutory link to the indexation of the state second pension.

The Government are reintroducing the earnings link to the basic state pension with a triple guarantee that the basic state pension is raised by the higher of earnings, prices or 2.5%.

Tax Avoidance

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce the level of tax avoidance in respect of *(a)* inheritance tax, *(b)* capital gains tax, *(c)* income tax, *(d)* stamp duty and *(e)* value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [24996]

Mr Gauke: This Government are committed to tackling avoidance and intend to build in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and to review areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes. We are also considering whether there is a case for developing a General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) for the UK.

Alongside this we will continue to use intelligence obtained from the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes regime and other sources to detect avoidance schemes early and we will challenge avoidance robustly where we find it.

The Government have also confirmed their commitment to tackling tax avoidance when they announced that £900 million would be made available over the spending review period to fund HM Revenue and Customs' compliance activities against tax evasion, fraud and avoidance.

Tax Evasion

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the proposed reduction to HM Revenue and Customs' budget does not allow a rise in the incidence of tax evasion. [24968]

Mr Gauke: The Government confirmed their commitment to tackling tax evasion when they announced £900 million would be made available over the spending review period to fund HM Revenue and Customs' compliance activities against tax evasion, fraud and avoidance. This will include an increase in the number of criminal prosecutions and deployment of dedicated tax experts to extend HMRC's coverage of large business, focusing on tackling high-risk areas. This should bring in around £7 billion per annum by 2014-15 in additional revenues.

Taxation: War Widows

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has he made of the amount of income tax paid by war widows in receipt of payments from the armed forces compensation scheme in each of the last five years. [25625]

Mr Gauke: Information on income tax paid on Survivor's Guaranteed Income Payments (SGIP) from the armed forces compensation scheme is not available, nor is the total income tax recipients pay.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to Question 21342, on independent tax regulations, tabled on 28 October 2010 for named day answer on 2 November 2010. [25338]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

EDUCATION

Academies: VAT

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on *(a)* the grant to be awarded by his Department to academy schools to cover the cost of value added tax payments and *(b)* the treatment of value added tax receipts from academy schools; and if he will make a statement. [21620]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to funding academy schools on a similar basis to maintained schools. The spending review agreed that in future, and subject to the necessary legislation, academies' non-business VAT costs will be reimbursed through a refund scheme similar to the scheme that already applies to local authority maintained schools. My officials will work with their counterparts in HM Treasury on how this scheme will operate in practice and further details will be set out in due course.

Apprentices

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 531W, on apprentices, if he will estimate the number of *(a)* level 2, *(b)* level 3 and *(c)* level 4 apprenticeships in each subject which are available in educational institutions in each constituency for the academic year 2010-11. [17075]

Mr Hayes: Days after taking office we announced an additional 50,000 apprenticeship places over this financial year, taking the total to be delivered to well over 300,000 places, a record for the apprenticeship programme. We have also introduced new freedoms for colleges and training providers to shift other provision into apprenticeships, so the exact number delivered will be dependent on employer demand for high-quality apprenticeships.

There are almost 200 job roles at levels 2, 3 and 4 in which someone may be an apprentice. Take-up across subject areas and by constituency follows employer demand. For these reasons, we are not able to provide estimates of the number, level, subject and geographical distribution of apprenticeships as these would be either too broad to be of use or would be potentially misleading.

Children In Care

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of the children taken into care *(a)* in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last five years had previously been in care on one or more occasions. [22912]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 10 November 2010]*: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Children who were taken into care during the year ending 31 March who had previously been in care on one or more occasions[1,2,3] *Coverage: England*

Years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010:	*Number*
2006	620
2007	590
2008	640
2009	700
2010	700

1. England figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Children who were taken into care are children who started to be looked after under a care order, police protection, an emergency protection order or a child assessment order.

Source:
SSDA 903

Curriculum

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 463W, on the curriculum, if he will issue guidance to *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* academies on what constitutes a broad and balanced curriculum. [23104]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 November 2010]*: This Government have committed to freeing all schools from unnecessary bureaucracy and to giving schools greater freedom over the curriculum. We will be announcing detailed plans for a review of the national curriculum before the end of the year. We will consider in light of the outcomes of that review what guidance, if necessary, is produced.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* external advisers are working on Professor Alison Wolf's review of vocational education. [16959]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* Officials from both the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are providing support to Professor Wolf. The support they are offering is, in total, equivalent to around three full-time posts at the present time but this will fall to the equivalent of around 1.5 full-time posts when work to manage and analyse the evidence which is currently being offered to Professor Wolf for the review has been completed in mid-November.

No external advisers, apart from Professor Wolf herself, are working on this review.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what timetable has been set for ending the education maintenance allowance and replacing it with targeted support. [19448]

Mr Gibb: The education maintenance allowance scheme will close at the end of the 2010/11 academic year and no new applications will be processed from 1 January 2011. It will be replaced by an enhanced Discretionary Learner Support Fund. Decisions about which young people should receive financial support from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund will be made by schools, colleges and training providers, who are in a better position than Government to determine the needs of individual students. They will target support to those young people who most need it to continue in education.

Examinations

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the examination system in measuring attainment. [22277]

Mr Gibb: It is for Ofqual as the independent regulator to ensure that examinations measure an individual's attainment accurately. Ofqual makes regular reports on qualifications and assessments which explore aspects of how they do this in greater depth. These reports can be found at:

www.Ofqual.gov.uk

Ofqual reports on a number of different aspects of standards in qualifications and assessments and its work is based on five common criteria against which it judges qualifications and assessment: validity, reliability, comparability, manageability and minimisation of bias.

In terms of giving accurate information on how attainment is improving overall, my Department will reform the league tables so that schools are able to focus on, and demonstrate, the progress of children of all abilities. We will also make more data available to the public. In addition to the headline indicators in the tables, parents will be able to access a wealth of information about their schools. Our plans will be announced in a forthcoming White Paper.

Free School Meals

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils are eligible for free school meals in each constituency. [21589]

Mr Gibb: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children are eligible for free school meals in each ward in Warrington North constituency; and what proportion of those eligible are claiming free meals. [21981]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Department collects information on the number of pupils who meet the free school meals eligibility criteria and make a claim. Information is not available on the number of pupils who may be eligible but do not make a claim.

The number of pupils who were known to be eligible and make a claim for free school meals is shown in the following table.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special[3] schools: school meal arrangements[4,5]

As at January 2010 by each ward within Warrington North parliamentary constituency

Ward name	*Number on roll[4,5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Birchwood	1,795	290	16.2
Burtonwood and Winwick	583	35	6.0
Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft	2,056	124	6.0
Fairfield and Howley	1,197	216	18.0
Orford	1,690	492	29.1
Poplars and Hulme	403	150	37.2
Poulton North	1,409	384	27.3
Poulton South	705	75	10.6
Rixton and Woolston	1,099	73	6.6
Westbrook	747	28	3.7
Warrington North (all wards)	11,684	1,867	16.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies. There are no city technology colleges or academies in Warrington North parliamentary constituency.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 and under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Source:

School Census

Free School Meals: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in Pendle were eligible for free school meals on the latest date for which figures are available. [22856]

Mr Gibb: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSEs

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many pupils were entered for a modern language GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for GCSEs in each such case; [20229]

(2) how many pupils were entered for a psychology GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for GCSEs in each such case; [20234]

(3) how many pupils were entered for a physics GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for GCSEs in each such case; [20235]

(4) how many pupils were entered for a chemistry GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for GCSEs in each such case; [20240]

(5) how many pupils were entered for an English literature GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for GCSEs in each such case; [20242]

(6) how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for a physical education GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective maintained schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; [20499]

(7) how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for a religious education GCSE in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* selective maintained schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997. [20500]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following tables. Figures from 1997-2004 have been based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year. Figures from 2005-10 have been based on pupils reaching the end of key stage 4.

Figures for 2010 are provisional.

Number of pupils entering GCSE

	School type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Modern foreign language	Comprehensive	360,740	374,108	384,669	386,595	397,915	386,580	379,077
	Selective	19,785	19,522	19,892	19,848	20,531	20,745	21,011
	Independent	38,051	36,875	36,116	36,050	37,329	37,383	37,074
Physical education	Comprehensive	69,622	72,024	80,221	82,414	89,498	94290	98,408
	Selective	1,212	1,498	1,741	1,958	2,114	2,150	2,462
	Independent	2,198	2,410	2,600	2,814	3,250	3,578	4,039
Religious education[1]	Comprehensive	84,147	78,946	81,552	80,663	84,758	86,820	95,853
	Selective	4,391	3,603	3,772	3,703	3,943	4,391	5,266
	Independent	10,455	10,138	9,562	9,352	9,695	9,917	10,320
Chemistry	Comprehensive	12,987	14,026	14,930	15,660	16,262	16,913	19,682
	Selective	5,673	6,398	6,675	6,569	6,807	6,800	6,868
	Independent	16,486	16,055	15,932	15,321	15,592	15,233	14135
Physics	Comprehensive	12,917	13,961	14,822	15,645	16,134	16,805	19,179
	Selective	5,613	6,343	6,674	6,594	6,810	6,818	6,871
	Independent	16,009	15,823	15,607	15,148	15,361	14,891	13,836
Psychology	Comprehensive	127	122	189	230	227	425	842
	Selective	[1]—	[1]—	5	24	27	23	55
	Independent	11	9	10	14	9	16	8
English literature[2]	Comprehensive	387,823	380,389	395,028	398,315	418,081	425,051	439,296
	Selective	19,708	19,191	19,680	19,648	20,442	20,764	21,279
	Independent	36,031	34,559	33,850	33,878	35,219	35,321	35,458

	School type	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Modern foreign language	Comprehensive	361,058	302,437	255,804	232,025	219,620	211,705	206,087
	Selective	21,387	21,300	21,070	20,902	20,821	20,454	20,578
	Independent	38,209	39,618	40,466	40,261	40,150	39,193	39,755
Physical education	Comprehensive	108,063	116,050	122,306	123,691	117,518	105,849	94,585
	Selective	2,864	3,187	3,754	4,135	4,134	4,368	4,156

	School type	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
	Independent	4,667	5,338	6,124	6,639	6,808	6,893	6,910
Religious education[1]	Comprehensive	103,041	109,798	121,012	130,947	137,293	139,259	141,325
	Selective	6,041	6,403	6,980	7,044	7,759	8,440	8,628
	Independent	11,016	11,885	12,750	12,926	13,697	13,658	14,226
Chemistry	Comprehensive	21,170	23,776	26,834	28,503	41,564	53,655	79,812
	Selective	7,156	7,183	7,364	7,752	11,024	12,653	14,185
	Independent	14,372	14,681	14,654	14,338	14,985	15,670	17,274
Physics	Comprehensive	20,869	23,478	26,545	28,375	41,094	53,533	79,665
	Selective	7,168	7,188	7,364	7,745	11,099	12,726	14,184
	Independent	14,108	14,483	14,472	14,158	14,432	15,026	16,410
Psychology	Comprehensive	1,134	1,668	2,520	3,335	4,691	5,308	5,721
	Selective	55	107	73	79	159	252	289
	Independent	18	13	42	88	123	122	140
English literature[2]	Comprehensive	448,293	442,696	442,861	439,299	429,266	405,424	391,098
	Selective	21,792	21,932	22,210	21,972	21,987	21,499	21,840
	Independent	37,228	38,699	40,312	40,199	38,953	36,853	37,371

Percentage of pupils entering GCSE

	School type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Modern foreign language	Comprehensive	77.4	78.4	79.7	80.3	79.5	76.6	73.4
	Selective	97.3	97.7	97.9	98.3	97.9	97.6	96.8
	Independent	90.9	84.6	84.3	84.4	84.8	84.6	83.6
Physical education	Comprehensive	14.9	15.1	16.6	17.1	17.9	18.7	19.0
	Selective	6.0	7.5	8.6	9.7	10.1	10.1	11.3
	Independent	5.2	5.5	6.1	6.6	7.4	8.1	9.1
Religious education[1]	Comprehensive	18.1	16.5	16.9	16.7	16.9	17.2	18.6
	Selective	21.6	18.0	18.6	18.3	18.8	20.7	24.3
	Independent	25.0	23.3	22.3	21.9	22.0	22.5	23.3
Chemistry	Comprehensive	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.8
	Selective	27.9	32.0	32.9	32.5	32.5	32.0	31.6
	Independent	39.4	36.8	37.2	35.9	35.4	34.5	31.9
Physics	Comprehensive	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.7
	Selective	27.6	31.8	32.8	32.7	32.5	32.1	31.7
	Independent	38.2	36.3	36.4	35.4	34.9	33.7	31.2
Psychology	Comprehensive	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
	Selective	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
	Independent	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English literature[2]	Comprehensive	83.2	79.7	81.8	82.7	83.6	84.3	85.0
	Selective	97.0	96.1	96.9	97.3	97.5	97.7	98.0
	Independent	86.0	79.3	79.0	79.3	80.0	80.0	80.0

	School type	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Modern foreign language	Comprehensive	67.8	57.5	47.9	42.9	40.9	40.8	39.6
	Selective	96.2	95.6	93.6	93.0	92.3	91.4	91.0
	Independent	81.4	84.7	83.1	83.8	83.9	80.9	78.9
Physical education	Comprehensive	20.3	22.1	22.9	22.9	21.9	20.4	18.2
	Selective	12.9	14.3	16.7	18.4	18.3	19.5	18.4
	Independent	9.9	11.4	12.6	13.8	14.2	14.2	13.7
Religious education[1]	Comprehensive	19.3	20.9	22.6	24.2	25.6	26.8	27.1
	Selective	27.2	28.7	31.0	31.4	34.4	37.7	38.2
	Independent	23.5	25.4	26.2	26.9	28.6	28.2	28.2
Chemistry	Comprehensive	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.3	7.7	10.3	15.3
	Selective	32.2	32.2	32.7	34.5	48.9	56.5	62.7
	Independent	30.6	31.4	30.1	29.9	31.3	32.4	34.3
Physics	Comprehensive	3.9	4.5	5.0	5.2	7.7	10.3	15.3
	Selective	32.2	32.3	32.7	34.5	49.2	56.8	62.7
	Independent	30.0	31.0	29.7	29.5	30.2	31.0	32.6

	School type	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Psychology	Comprehensive	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.1
	Selective	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.3
	Independent	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
English literature[2]	Comprehensive	84.1	84.2	82.9	81.2	80.0	78.1	75.1
	Selective	98.0	98.4	98.7	97.8	97.5	96.0	96.6
	Independent	79.3	82.8	82.8	83.7	81.4	76.1	74.2

[1] Both religious education and religious studies have been counted.

[2] Only pure English literature GCSEs have been counted. English literature forms part of the curriculum in other subjects such as English but these have not been counted.

[1] Figures have been suppressed due to small numbers.

Source:

The Secondary School and College Performance Tables.

Geography: Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent representations he has received on the teaching of geography in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; and if he will make a statement; [22008]

(2) what steps he is taking to promote the teaching of geography in schools; and if he will make a statement. [21900]

Mr Gibb: We have made clear that we intend to review the National Curriculum. Our intention in doing this is to restore it to its original purpose—a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. One of the tasks of the review will be to identify the aspects of geographical knowledge that all children should acquire at certain ages.

We will be announcing details of the review later in the year and are committed to ensuring that it will be conducted in an open and transparent manner. We intend to consult a wide range of interested parties, including subject associations, teachers and academics, before coming to any conclusions.

Ahead of the review we have received a number of representations about the teaching of geography in primary and secondary schools. In particular, the Geographical Association has encouraged its members to write to MPs to reinforce the message that geography matters; MPs have written to departmental Ministers.

A child's education is diminished without a sound knowledge of geography. The Government want to encourage children to study geography beyond the age of 14. One of the options we are presently exploring is to give special recognition to pupils studying a broad range of academic subjects, including English, maths, science, a modern or ancient language and a humanity, such as history or geography. Our proposals for an "English Baccalaureate" along these lines could provide schools and students with the incentive to follow the courses which best equip them to succeed, and help ensure that all young people have the chance to do a balanced range of GCSE subjects.

Languages: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were entered for a GCSE in a modern foreign language in 2009 in each local authority; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for GCSEs in 2009 in each case. [20226]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Pupils at the end of KS4 entered for modern foreign language GCSEs: year 2009. Coverage: Pupils in maintained schools (including academies and CTCs). Figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas or those in hospital schools or PRUs—only entries in full GCSE courses are included

	Number of pupils at end KS4	*Number of pupils entered for at entered for at least one MFL*	*% entered for at least one MFL*
England (maintained sector average across all LAs)	576,421	238,657	41
North East	30,670	10,159	33
Darlington	1,188	390	33
Durham	5,740	2,060	36
Gateshead	2,160	929	43
Hartlepool	1,244	320	26
Middlesbrough	1,741	279	16
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,725	876	32
North Tyneside	2,290	853	37
Northumberland	3,800	1,284	34
Redcar and Cleveland	1,914	434	23
South Tyneside	1,913	518	27
Stockton-on-Tees	2,430	947	39
Sunderland	3,525	1,269	36
North West	83,352	32,397	39
Blackburn with Darwen	1,803	469	26

Pupils at the end of KS4 entered for modern foreign language GCSEs: year 2009. Coverage: Pupils in maintained schools (including academies and CTCs). Figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas or those in hospital schools or PRUs— only entries in full GCSE courses are included

	Number of pupils at end KS4	*Number of pupils entered for at entered for at least one MFL*	*% entered for at least one MFL*
Blackpool	1,648	583	35
Bolton	3,611	1,244	34
Bury	2,221	1,228	55
Cheshire East	4,013	1,741	43
Cheshire West and Chester	3,979	1,631	41
Cumbria	6,077	2,097	35
Halton	1,542	418	27
Knowsley	1,645	589	36
Lancashire	13,657	5,756	42
Liverpool	5,357	2,070	39
Manchester	4,685	1,428	30
Oldham	3,036	862	28
Rochdale	2,612	778	30
Salford	2,347	552	24
Sefton	3,537	1,709	48
St. Helens	2,156	714	33
Stockport	3,041	1,392	46
Tameside	2,994	1,049	35
Trafford	2,895	1,677	58
Warrington	2,570	1,013	39
Wigan	3,929	1,588	40
Wirral	3,997	1,809	45
Yorkshire and Humber	60,857	22,581	37
Barnsley	2,642	717	27
Bradford	5,876	2,174	37
Calderdale	2,630	1,092	42
Doncaster	3,681	846	23
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,015	1,793	45
Kingston upon Hull, City of	2,914	787	27
Kirklees	4,708	1,870	40
Leeds	8,272	3,054	37
North East Lincolnshire	1,955	661	34
North Lincolnshire	2,030	738	36
North Yorkshire	6,990	3,187	46
Rotherham	3,676	1,112	30
Sheffield	5,740	1,839	32
Wakefield	4,014	1,739	43
York	1,714	972	57
East Midlands	51,663	21,950	42
Derby	2,862	1,203	42
Derbyshire	8,909	3,471	39
Leicester	3,496	1,628	47
Leicestershire	7,391	3,520	48
Lincolnshire	8,473	3,841	45
Northamptonshire	8,027	3,487	43
Nottingham	2,788	1,051	38
Nottinghamshire	9,243	3,491	38
Rutland	474	258	54
West Midlands	64,883	24,246	37
Birmingham	12,292	4,531	37
Coventry	3,534	1,209	34
Dudley	3,965	1,411	36
Herefordshire	1,920	828	43
Sandwell	3,615	692	19
Shropshire	3,214	1,477	46
Solihull	3,074	1,260	41
Staffordshire	9,853	4,187	42
Stoke-on-Trent	2,720	658	24
Telford and Wrekin	2,115	740	35

Pupils at the end of KS4 entered for modern foreign language GCSEs: year 2009. Coverage: Pupils in maintained schools (including academies and CTCs). Figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas or those in hospital schools or PRUs — only entries in full GCSE courses are included

	Number of pupils at end KS4	Number of pupils entered for at entered for at least one MFL	% entered for at least one MFL
Walsall	3,710	986	27
Warwickshire	5,942	2,484	42
Wolverhampton	2,742	919	34
Worcestershire	6,187	2,864	46
East of England	65,171	27,354	42
Bedford	1,859	641	34
Cambridgeshire	5,843	2,659	46
Central Bedfordshire	2,867	1,054	37
Essex	16,136	6,201	38
Hertfordshire	13,000	7,015	54
Luton	2,410	725	30
Norfolk	8,922	3,483	39
Peterborough	2,287	1,016	44
Southend-on-Sea	2,203	894	41
Suffolk	7,772	3,026	39
Thurrock	1,872	640	34
London	73,721	35,798	49
Inner London	22,960	10,577	46
Camden	1,442	752	52
Hackney	1,346	710	53
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,051	592	56
Haringey	2,160	810	38
Islington	1,414	605	43
Kensington and Chelsea	569	323	57
Lambeth	1,560	734	47
Lewisham	2,136	779	36
Newham	3,401	1,945	57
Southwark	2,366	821	35
Tower Hamlets	2,353	894	38
Wandsworth	1,854	1,029	56
Westminster	1,308	583	45
Outer London	50,761	25,221	50
Barking and Dagenham	2,044	513	25
Barnet	3,236	1,927	60
Bexley	3,187	1,363	43
Brent	2,793	1,473	53
Bromley	3,509	1,624	46
Croydon	3,651	2,065	57
Ealing	2,793	1,408	50
Enfield	3,622	1,983	55
Greenwich	2,415	797	33
Harrow	2,155	1,088	50
Havering	3,024	1,596	53
Hillingdon	2,919	1,143	39
Hounslow	2,542	1,601	63
Kingston upon Thames	1,487	951	64
Merton	1,561	575	37
Redbridge	3,241	1,726	53
Richmond upon Thames	1,407	719	51
Sutton	2,595	1,551	60
Waltham Forest	2,580	1,118	43
South East	89,497	39,634	44
Bracknell Forest	1,112	464	42
Brighton and Hove	2,289	955	42
Buckinghamshire	5,584	2,848	51
East Sussex	5,197	1,776	34
Hampshire	14,084	6,550	47
Isle of Wight	1,513	460	30

Pupils at the end of KS4 entered for modern foreign language GCSEs: year 2009. Coverage: Pupils in maintained schools (including academies and CTCs). Figures do not include pupils recently arrived from overseas or those in hospital schools or PRUs— only entries in full GCSE courses are included

	Number of pupils at end KS4	*Number of pupils entered for at entered for at least one MFL*	*% entered for at least one MFL*
Kent	16,698	6,619	40
Medway	3,385	1,157	34
Milton Keynes	2,642	1,148	43
Oxfordshire	6,309	3,022	48
Portsmouth	1,993	701	35
Reading	958	407	42
Slough	1,488	913	61
Southampton	2,257	717	32
Surrey	10,511	5,244	50
West	Berkshire	2,000	1,207
West	Sussex	8,230	3,832
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,542	783	51
Wokingham	1,705	831	49
South West	56,607	24,538	43
Isles of Scilly	15	4	27
Bath and North East Somerset	2,172	1,099	51
Bournemouth	1,780	666	37
Bristol, City of	3,131	1,078	34
Cornwall	5,987	2,033	34
Devon	7,704	3,154	41
Dorset	4,366	2,349	54
Gloucestershire	6,882	3,325	48
North Somerset	2,265	856	38
Plymouth	2,966	1,474	50
Poole	1,684	956	57
Somerset	5,688	1,937	34
South Gloucestershire	3,107	1,538	50
Swindon	2,259	656	29
Torbay	1,518	619	41
Wiltshire	5,083	2,794	55

Primary Education

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on future priorities for primary education. [21387]

Mr Gibb: The Government's priorities for primary education are to: (1) improve the quality of teaching in primary schools, a first step has been to expand the Teach First programme into primary schools; (2) give teachers all the powers they need to tackle poor behaviour and restore discipline; (3) increase the autonomy of the primary school system, for example, by opening up the Academies programme to primary schools and supporting the establishment of new Free Primary Schools; (4) create a fairer funding system by introducing the Pupil Premium from 2011, which will provide additional funding for disadvantaged pupils, including those in primary schools, to ensure they benefit from the same opportunities as pupils from more advantaged families; (5) introduce a reformed National Curriculum, which will focus on the core knowledge which children need to acquire in traditional subject disciplines, while giving teachers greater freedom to decide how to teach, including by reducing bureaucracy and data burdens; and (6) ensure that teachers have a secure understanding of how to teach phonics given the importance of learning to read in the early years of primary school.

Primary Schools: Sex Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what information is provided to parents of children in primary schools on the content of sex education being taught in the school; and if he will make a statement; [20250]

(2) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require the provision of further information for parents about the material being used to teach sex and relationships education in schools; and if he will make a statement. [20251]

Mr Gibb: Governing bodies currently have a statutory responsibility to ensure that schools have a sex education policy in place which as a minimum should provide information on how sex education will be provided, any sensitive issues that will be covered, and who will provide it. This must be made available to parents on request. Where primary schools have chosen not to provide sex education, they must still have a written policy statement to that effect.

We believe that it is far better to encourage and reinforce the importance of regular and open communication between schools and parents through clear guidance, rather than through additional legislation. Many schools have good channels of communication with parents which help them understand what exactly is being taught in school—including in sex and relationships education (SRE)—and gives them an opportunity to comment on content and the manner in which that content will be presented. Schools may decide to amend their SRE programmes if a majority of parents are unhappy about their content.

Ultimately, parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE teaching, outside the national curriculum, if they are not happy with the school's approach.

Primary Schools: Technology

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of teaching of technology education in primary schools. [22860]

Mr Gibb: In June 2008 Ofsted published 'Education for a technologically advanced nation', a report based on a three-year evaluation of design and technology in primary and secondary schools.

The report found that

> "Achievement and progress were good in a third of the primary schools visited and satisfactory in the vast majority. Standards rose during the period of the survey[1]."

The next Ofsted report on this subject is due in spring 2011.

---

[1] Ofsted, 2008, Education for a technologically advanced nation in schools—Design and technology in schools 2004-07, p5

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of technology teaching to improving attainment levels among *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls. [22862]

Mr Gibb: In June 2008 Ofsted published 'Education for a technologically advanced nation', a report based on a three-year evaluation of design and technology in primary and secondary schools.

The report found achievement and progress were good in two-thirds of the secondary schools and have improved steadily[1]. Between the ages of 11 and 16, boys performed less well than girls. The report pointed out, however, that the highly performing departments where boys' attainment at GCSE is close to that for girls, had a number of features in common: performance is partly secured by excellent relationships and discipline, strong vigilance and tight coursework management; high degree of mutual courtesy in lessons and boys are made to feel as included in the activities, and are enabled to see their relevance, as well as the girls[2].

The next Ofsted report is due in spring 2011.

---

[1] Ofsted, 2008, Education for a technologically advanced nation in schools—Design and technology in schools 2004-07, p5

[2] As above, p44

School Leaving: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he made of the number of students educated in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* Northumberland who left full-time education at the age of 16 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [22930]

Mr Gibb: Estimates of participation in education and training for 16 and 17-year-olds in each local authority in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The full SFR can be found on the Department's website and data by local authority are contained in the fifth set of tables listed on this page:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

These latest estimates show that approximately 3,000 young people of academic age 16 in Northumberland were in full-time education from a population of 4,000 at the end of 2008.

The remaining approximately 1,000 young people left full-time education. Figures are not available by parliamentary constituency.

Schools: Admissions

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to bring forward proposals to give head-teachers more control over school admission policies. [22280]

Mr Gibb: Admissions policies are set and applied locally by admission authorities. For community and voluntary-controlled schools, this is one of the 152 local authorities in England. For foundation and voluntary-aided schools, this is the governing body of schools which set their own admissions policies. Academies are responsible for agreeing their own admission policies with the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State has indicated his intention to review the admissions framework and the School Admissions Code, with a view to making it simpler and fairer. However, we will maintain a strong and clear framework that continues to ensure fairness and transparency.

Schools: Offences against Children

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent research he has evaluated on the incidence of the experience of pupils of unwanted sexual contact at school; and if he will make a statement. [23019]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The Department for Education has not conducted any research to evaluate the incidence of the experience of pupils of unwanted sexual contact at school. There are currently no plans to undertake such research.

Everyone shares responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, irrespective of their individual roles. Schools and further education colleges have a duty under s175 of the Education Act 2002 to carry out their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This includes being able to identify children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe.

Schools: Sports

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department allocated to the School Sport Partnership Programme in the academic years *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [22097]

Mr Gibb: The Department allocated funding to the School Sport Partnership network as follows:

(a) £115 million in 2009-10 and;

(b) £114 million in 2010-11.

Secondary Education: Kingston upon Thames

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of secondary school places required in North Kingston in 2015. [18336]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary school places in their area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one. Ministers play no role in deciding primary and secondary school provision in individual authorities and constituencies but the Department provides capital funding to enable local authorities to provide sufficient school places.

Teachers: Training

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that teachers are provided with sufficient training and ongoing support to challenge all forms of violence against girls. [21744]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The coalition Government are determined to put in place robust and effective measures to protect children and young people from harm, including violence.

The Department for Education is contributing to the Home Office led, but cross government, ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) strategy. Full details will be published next spring, including about the role of schools.

Teaching Methods

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library the report of his Department's evaluation of the *(a)* Every Child a Reader and *(b)* Every Child Counts programme for 2009-10. [21797]

Mr Gibb: All three Every Child programmes, Every Child a Reader, Every Child a Writer and Every Child Counts, are currently being independently evaluated. The evaluations will be completed in late 2010 or early 2011.

The final reports for all three programmes will be made publicly available and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the Houses of Parliament.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to improve the *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy of the lowest achieving five per cent. of children aged between six and seven years; and what plans his Department has for the future of the (i) Every Child a Reader and (ii) Every Child Counts programmes. [22113]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to raising standards of literacy and numeracy in schools, in order to equip every child with the basic skills they need to succeed throughout their education and later in life.

We will therefore be strengthening the use of systematic synthetic phonics in teaching children to read. This will be backed up by a new age six reading test, which will allow teachers to identify and help those children who are struggling.

For those children who fall behind in literacy and numeracy, the Government have committed to fund the Every Child suite with £89 million for 2010-11. We are currently working through proposals for intervention programmes beyond 2011 and will set out these proposals in the forthcoming Schools White Paper.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to allocate funding to schools participating in the *(a)* Every Child a Reader and *(b)* Every Child Counts schemes to enable them to continue these programmes after September 2011; and if he will make a statement. [22114]

Mr Gibb: For those children who fall behind in literacy and numeracy, the Government have committed to fund the Every Child suite with £89 million for 2010-11. We are currently working through proposals for intervention programmes beyond 2011 and will set out these proposals in the forthcoming Schools White Paper.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that his Department continues to provide support for teacher training and evaluation for the Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts programmes for the purposes of enabling schools to continue to access these programmes after 2011; and if he will allocate funding for *(a)* the training of specialist teachers to deliver these programmes and *(b)* the continuation of evaluation studies in respect of these programmes by the Institute of Education and Edge Hill University after 2011. [22115]

Mr Gibb: For those children who fall behind in literacy and numeracy, the Government have committed to fund the Every Child suite with £89 million for 2010-11.

All three Every Child programmes are currently undergoing robust independent evaluations, to report in late 2010-early 2011, which will give a substantive view of the impact of the programmes.

We are currently working through proposals for literacy and numeracy intervention beyond September 2011, which is subject to final decisions following the spending review, and we will set out these proposals in the forthcoming Schools White Paper.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 21041, tabled on 27 October, on children without school places; and if he will make a statement. [25556]

Mr Gibb: A response was sent to the hon. Member on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 756W.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons resident in approved premises in England and Wales there were on the most recent date for which information is available. [25738]

Mr Blunt: According to the most up to date available monthly management information provided by all approved premises, the number of residents in approved premises on 30 September 2010 was 1,882.

Approved Premises: Offenders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in approved premises in England and Wales are *(a)* sex offenders, *(b)* violent offenders and *(c)* former convicted terrorists. [25739]

Mr Blunt: The number of sex offenders and violent offenders accommodated in approved premises in England and Wales will vary from time to time. Statistical information about the offending history of most offenders residing in approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally, although offenders' assessed level of risk of harm at the point of admission is.

As of the end of September 2010, there were 12 offenders residing in APs who had been convicted for Terrorist Act offences or terrorist-related offences. This information has been obtained from the specialist team within the National Offender Management Service who have responsibility for monitoring the whereabouts of convicted terrorists and terrorist-related offenders.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and its predecessors and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05; [24936]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24937]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice currently has no formal contracts for postal services with either Post Office Ltd or Royal Mail. However, it has a number of local agreements for fixed and variable services i.e. timed delivery, collections, business response, diversions etc.

We are due to start further competition against the new Buying Solutions Postal Services Framework RM782 which was recently awarded following the delay after the general election outcome and Efficiency Reform Group findings. We had originally planned to have this in place in January 2010.

The Ministry of Justice has identified that out of the 14 Lots within the new Postal Services Framework, Royal Mail is listed in 13 and would be involved in the further competition on the services it can provide through its network.

It is expected that we will have formal contract(s) in place by April 2011 with the successful bidder(s).

HM Inspectorate of Prisons: Public Appointments

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what criteria Nick Hardwick was appointed Chief Inspector of Prisons; and who the other candidates were for that post. [24989]

Mr Blunt: Mr Hardwick was selected as a result of an open recruitment process. All applications for the post were assessed against criteria in the person specification shown. We consider that it would be a clear breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 to disclose the names of the other candidates without their consent.

Person Specification:

The post holder is not expected to have a background within the criminal justice or immigration systems, but will have an appreciation of the issues affecting these areas, and be able to demonstrate strong performance across the range of competencies set out as follows.

Core competencies:

Candidates will be able to demonstrate:

Leadership and Performance

Proven ability to lead effectively a multi-disciplinary team, including experienced professional staff.

Ability to develop and maintain demonstrable and perceived independence from the inspected agencies.

Stakeholder Management

The ability to establish credibility with the public, Ministers and other stakeholders.

Authority and influence at very senior levels across a broad range of stakeholders and delivery partners.

Highly developed inter-personal skills and the willingness to work collaboratively with others, with the ability to feel at ease with prisoners, prison staff, senior managers in the criminal justice system and their counterparts in other areas inspected.

Strategic Thinking and Judgment

An ability to process and interpret complex information and to offer well-developed analytical reasoning skills and judgment based on evidence.

The ability to provide impartial, objective and pragmatic advice with excellent judgment in both operational and political matters.

High integrity and a genuine commitment to helping raise standards within prisons, immigration detention and other places of custody and to furthering the contribution prisons can make to reducing re-offending.

An incisive and independent mind and highly developed analytical skills.

Excellent judgment in both operational and political matters.

Communication

Excellent communication skills and proven ability to handle the media.

Experience of formulating and presenting technical advice and reports to others at senior levels.

HM Land Registry

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the address is of each property *(a)* leased and *(b)* owned by his Department or its agents for use by HM Land Registry; and what the annual rental costs associated with each such property were in each of the last three years. [24850]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is as follows:

Freehold:

Administrative Head Office

32, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PH

(Surplus to requirements, currently being disposed of)

Birkenhead Office—Rosebrae Court

Woodside Ferry Approach, Birkenhead, Merseyside, CH41 6DU

Croydon Office—Trafalgar House

1 Bedford Park, Croydon, CRO 2AQ

Durham Office—Southfield House

Southfield Way, Durham, DH1 5TR

Fylde Office—Wrea Brook Court

Lytham Road, Warton, Lancashire, PR4 1TE

Leicester Office—Westbridge Place

Leicester, LE3 5DR

Leicester Office Day Nursery

St Oswald's Road, Leicester LE3 6RJ

Nottingham Office—Chalfont Drive

Nottingham, NG8 3RN

Plymouth Office—Plumer House

Tailyour Road, Crownhill, Plymouth, PL6 5HY

(Surplus to requirements, currently being disposed of)

Plymouth Office (Information Systems)—Seaton Court

2 William Prance Road, Plymouth, PL6 5WS

Portsmouth Office—St Andrew's Court

St Michael's Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 2JH

(Surplus to requirements, currently being disposed of)

Stevenage Office—Brickdale House

Swingate, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 1XG

(Surplus to requirements, currently being disposed of)

Swansea Office—Ty-Bryn-Glas

High Street, Swansea SA1 1 PW

(Vacated and on the market for sale)

Telford Office—Parkside Court

Hall Park Way, Telford, TF3 4LR

Tunbridge Wells Office—Forest Court

Forest Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5AQ

(Being vacated) (Surplus to requirements, currently being disposed of)

RFS[1] Plymouth—Drakes Hill Court

RFS Wales—Manstleton (Cwmbrla)

Leasehold

	£
Coventry Office	
Leigh Court, Torrington Avenue, Tile Hill, Coventry, CV4 9XZ	
Rent 2007-08	82.00
Rent 2008-09	82.00
Rent 2009-10	82.00
Gloucester Office	
Twyver House, Bruton Way, Gloucester, GL1 1DQ	
Rent 2007-08	705,000
Rent 2008-09	705,000
Rent 2009-10	705,000
Gloucester—Gladiator House	
Gloucester Business Park, Data Centre (Building)	
Rent 2007-08	0
Rent 2008-09	0
Rent 2009-10	0
Gloucester—Gladiator House	
Gloucester Business Park (car park)	
Rent 2007-08	0
Rent 2008-09	0
Rent 2009-10	0
Kingston upon Hull Office—Earle House	
Colonial Street, Hull, HU2 8JN	
Rent 2007-08	47,400
Rent 2008-09	47,400
Rent 2009-10	47,400
London—Southampton Row	
(Independent complaints reviewer)	
Rent 2007-08	31,763.76
Rent 2008-09	31,763.76
Rent 2009-10	31,087.95
Peterborough Office[2]—Touthill Close	
City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1XN	
Rent 2007-08	940,000
Rent 2008-09	940,000
Rent 2009-10	939,780
Peterborough Office[2]—Touthill Close	
City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1XN (Bst and first)	
Rent 2007-08	246,750
Rent 2008-09	246,750
Rent 2009-10	241,500
Plymouth RFS 11	
Information Systems—Eagle House—Data Centre	
Rent 2007-08	133,950
Rent 2008-09	133,950
Rent 2009-10	140,323
Plymouth—Information Systems	
Holland House—Data Centre	
Rent 2007-08	98,406.25
Rent 2008-09	98,406.25
Rent 2009-10	100,533.12
Telford—Kelsall House	
Whole building sublet	
Rent 2007-08	261,519.72
Rent 2008-09	261,519.72
Rent 2009-10	255,955.50
Wales Office—Ty Cwm Tawe	
Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9FQ	

Leasehold	£
Rent 2007-08	0
Rent 2008-09	0
Rent 2009-10	0
Weymouth Office—Melcombe Court	
1 Cumberland Drive, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9TT	
Rent 2007-08	0
Rent 2008-09	0
Rent 2009-10	0
RFS Weymouth 7 and 9 Cumberland Drive	
Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9TT[2]	
Rent 2007-08	61,600
Rent 2008-09	61,600
Rent 2009-10	61,600
York—James House[3]	
Rent 2007-08	528,750
Rent 2008-09	528,750
Rent 2009-10	517,500
Portsmouth—Wiltshire street car park	
Rent 2007-08	[4]—
Rent 2008-09	[4]—
Rent 2009-10	[4]—
RFS 8—Appin Way	
Birkenhead	
Rent 2007-08	39,480
Rent 2008-09	39,480
Rent 2009-10	45,292.75
RFS 3 Durham	
Unit 3	
Rent 2007-08	60,377.36
Rent 2008-09	60,377.36
Rent 2009-10	59,092.75
RFS 5 Durham	
Unit 4	
Rent 2007-08	43,005
Rent 2008-09	43,005
Rent 2009-10	42,090
RFS 12 Durham Enterprise City	
Unit B Spennymoor	
Rent 2007-08	113,387.52
Rent 2008-09	113,387.52
Rent 2009-10	110,975.00
RFS 12 Durham Enterprise City	
Unit C Spennymoor	
Rent 2007-08	111,560.36
Rent 2008-09	111,560.36
Rent 2009-10	109,186.75
RFS 9 East Goscote	
Leicester	
Rent 2007-08	56,047.52
Rent 2008-09	56,047.52
Rent 2009-10	54,855.00
RFS 6 Units 3, 4 and 4a Pintail Close	
Nottingham	
Rent 2007-08	75,200
Rent 2008-09	75,200
Rent 2009-10	73,600
RFS 1 Telford, Pensnett	
Rent 2007-08	126,018.75
Rent 2008-09	126,018.75
Rent 2009-10	135,125.00
RFS 2 Telford	
Units A1-A3 Stafford Park	
Rent 2007-08	56,987.52
Rent 2008-09	56,987.52
Rent 2009-10	57,500
RFS 2 Telford	
Units A4-A7 Stafford Park	
Rent 2007-08	75,787.52
Rent 2008-09	75,787.52
Rent 2009-10	75,900

[1] RFS refers to regional file store—these are currently being reviewed with the potential for outsourcing by mid 2011.

[2] Two separate leases.

[3] Surplus to requirements, currently being disposed of.

[4] £ peppercorn—not demanded

Note:

Rent figures are annual with inclusive VAT (where applicable).

Legal Aid

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish immediately the equality impact assessment made in respect of the changes to the legal aid system announced on 15 November. [25503]

Mr Djanogly: On 15 November the Justice Secretary announced the publication of a consultation on a package of proposals for the reform of legal aid. Equality impact assessments are published alongside the consultation document on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received *(a)* criminal and *(b)* civil legal aid in England and Wales in 2009-10. [25740]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 538W.

Legal Aid: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost was of *(a)* criminal and *(b)* civil legal aid in England and Wales in 2009-10. [25741]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 534-535W.

Legal Aid: Low Incomes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to ensure that those with a low income have access to the legal system; and if he will make a statement. [25749]

Mr Djanogly: On 15 November the Justice Secretary announced the start of a consultation on a package of proposals for the reform of legal aid. The proposals set out clear choices to ensure access to public funding in those cases that really require it, the protection of the most vulnerable in society and the efficient performance of the justice system.

Proposals relating to changes to the types of civil and family proceedings for which legal aid should be available reflect the Government's commitment to ensuring that legal aid is available to those who need it most and for the most serious cases. In developing these proposals, we have taken into account the availability of alternative sources of funding and the availability of alternative routes to resolving the issue, as well as the importance of the issue in question, the individual's ability to present their own case, and our domestic and international legal obligations.

In relation to proposals for changes to the financial eligibility rules for civil and family legal aid, we want to ensure that those who can either pay for or contribute towards their legal costs, should do so, so that we ensure continued access to public funding in those cases that really require it for those who have little or no funds of their own.

We do not propose to make changes to the scope of, or financial eligibility for, criminal legal aid.

Legal Aid: Social Security Benefits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to provide support for those involved in welfare benefit disputes after the removal of legal aid; and if he will make a statement. [25813]

Mr Djanogly: At present in welfare benefit cases legal aid is only available for advice and assistance, not for legal representation. In most cases individuals will be able to prepare their appeal to the First-tier (Social Security and Child Support) Tribunal without formal legal assistance. The appellant is required only to provide reasons for disagreeing with the decision in plain language. For those who need assistance on a welfare benefits matter, there is advice and assistance available from the voluntary sector as well as, for example, the Benefits Enquiry Line.

Ministerial Correspondence Unit: Personnel

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed in the Ministerial Correspondence Unit of his Department. [25612]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministerial Correspondence Unit comprises of 11 members of staff. It has responsibility for managing correspondence received by Ministers or the Department from Members, Peers, prominent individuals and organisations and the public.

Offenders: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders recalled to prison in the West Midlands area have returned to prison in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [25812]

Mr Blunt: During the latest period 1 April to 30 June 2010, 244 offenders were recalled by the West Midlands area and returned to custody by 30 September 2010.

Office of the Public Guardian

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the address is of each property *(a)* leased and *(b)* owned by his Department or its agents for use by the Office of the Public Guardian; and what the annual rental costs associated with each such property were in each of the last three years. [24851]

Mr Djanogly: The Office of the Public Guardian currently operates from three leasehold buildings, the addresses of which and associated rental costs over the last three years are as follows:

Office of the Public Guardian
Archway Tower
2 Junction Road
London
N19 5SZ

	Rental costs (£)
2007-08	[1]913,000
	[2]789,745
2008-09	[1]913,000
	[2]789,745
2009-10	[1]893,000
	[2]537,586

[1] Figures represent total rental cost of the building paid by OPG.
[2] Figures represent proportion of OPG annual rental contribution after charge back to other Government tenants.

Office of the Public Guardian
54 Hagley Road
Birmingham
B16 8PE

	Rental costs (£)
2007-08	n/a
2008-09	n/a
2009-10	174,000

Office of the Public Guardian
3 rd Floor, the Pearson Building
57 Upper Parliament Street
Nottingham
NG1 6AZ

	Rental costs (£)
2007-08	n/a
2008-09	n/a
2009-10	[1]n/a

[1] Rent charged from 1 April 2010 at £510,000 per annum.

Prison Accommodation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he intends to announce his plans to announce the future of each prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [24990]

Mr Blunt: The Government are developing proposals to improve the rehabilitation of offenders which will be published in a Green Paper. By the end of the spending review period these proposals are projected to reduce the prison population by 3,000. We will always ensure there are sufficient prison places for offenders sentenced to custody by courts. However, we are reviewing prison capacity to ensure that it is provided in the most economic way.

No decisions have been made about the future of individual prisons. If proposals are developed to significantly change the role, function or capacity of a prison I will write to the relevant Member of Parliament.

Prison Service: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding was allocated to the Prison Service in Dorset in 2009-10; and how much funding will be allocated in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [25649]

Mr Blunt: The four Dorset prisons were allocated £46,931,000 in funding in 2009-10 and £43,692,000 in funding in 2010-11 from the Ministry of Justice. The budget for 2011-12 has not yet been set.

Prisoners on Remand

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many remand prisoners there were in prisons in England and Wales on *(a)* 30 April and *(b)* 7 May 2010; and how many of those had applied for a postal or proxy vote. [25559]

Mr Blunt: On 30 April and 7 May 2010 respectively, there were 12,814 and 12,823 remand prisoners in prisons in England and Wales.

Prisoners' applications for postal or proxy votes are a private matter between them and the Electoral Registration Officer. The National Offender Management Service does not have any record of how many prisoners applied for postal or proxy votes.

Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at what point in a sentence a prisoner's case for day release is considered; and on what criteria such cases are determined. [24992]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners must be assessed as both eligible and suitable before release on temporary licence (ROTL) is permitted. The criteria for each test are detailed in Prison Service Order 6300, which may be accessed via:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/listpsos/

Briefly, certain prisoners are ineligible for any form of ROTL; for example, those given the highest security categorisation (category A). Those afforded the next highest category (B) are eligible for ROTL for a special purpose, such as a funeral, but not for resettlement day release (RDR). Eligible prisoners may be considered for RDR either two years before their conditional release or parole eligibility date, or once they have served half the custodial period less half the relevant remand time, whichever gives the later date.

ROTL will not be granted unless the purpose of the leave is one that contributes directly to the prisoner's resettlement into the community or, exceptionally, it is required to enable them to deal responsibly with unexpected family and personal events. The prisoner must additionally pass a rigorous risk assessment taking into account the risks of harm, re-offending and absconding, and the impact of the particular release upon both the victim and public confidence in the administration of justice.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many crimes were committed by prisoners on day release in each of the last three years. [25079]

Mr Blunt: Time spent on release on temporary licence affords prisoners the opportunity to find work, re-establish family ties, reintegrate into the community and ensure housing needs are met. For long-term prisoners these are essential components for successful resettlement. The most recent published statistics[1] show that in the three year period between 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2009 there were 1,300,161 temporary release licences issued to prisoners. In this same period there were 785 failures of licence (a less than one tenth of 1 per cent failure rate).

[1] The attention of the House is drawn to the bulletin, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2009, which was published on 22 July 2010. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of this House and other places. I hope that this will provide additional context to the statistics supplied in the answer. Offender Management Caseload Statistics, tables 9.7 and 9.12, are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/omcs-2009-complete-210710a.pdf

To provide the information requested on crimes committed while on temporary release would involve the manual examination of all 785 individual records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of his Department's average annual expenditure on rehabilitation in respect of foreign national prisoners. [24991]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service delivers a broad range of activities to address the risks and needs of all offenders. An estimate of expenditure in respect of an individual offender or a particular group of offenders could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by analysing information held on local financial or data systems and offender files, validating the information, and then collating it in a common format.

Prisoners: Offences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether sentencing guidelines include provision for an offence committed by a person on day release from prison to be considered an aggravating factor during sentencing. [25373]

Mr Blunt: The Sentencing Guidelines Council issued a Guideline on Overarching Principles of Sentencing: Seriousness in 2004. This includes advice to judges and magistrates that it should be an aggravating factor that an offence was committed whilst the offender was on licence, or while on bail. The Guideline does not distinguish between the types of licence to which offenders may be subject.

Prisons: Personnel

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prison officer 2 staff have been employed by the Prison Service in each month since September 2009; and if he will make a statement; [25341]

(2) how many prison officer 2 staff are employed by the Prison Service; and if he will make a statement; [25342]

(3) how many prison officer 2 staff have been appointed at each prison since the introduction of the grade by the Prison Service; how many such staff were employed at each prison in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [25343]

(4) what the turnover rate for prison officer 2 staff of the Prison Service was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [25344]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of prison officer 2s in post at the end of each month from September 2009 to 30 June 2010 (the date of the latest published staffing information) is contained in the following table. On 30 June 2010 there were 413 prison officer 2s in post.

Prison officer 2s in post, 30 September 2009 to 30 June 2010

Date	*Prison officer 2s*
2009	
30 September	0
31 October	0
30 November	111
31 December	114
2010	
31 January	177
28 February	211
31 March	245
30 April	301
31 May 10	338
30 June 10	413

Information on the number of prison officer 2s appointed to each Prison Service establishment and the number in post on 30 June 2010 is contained in the following table. The officers appointed include directly recruited staff and staff who converted from other Prison Service grades.

Prison officer 2s appointed—September 2009 to June 2010

	Prison officer 2s	
Establishment	*Total appointed*[1]	*Total in post 30 June 2010*
Acklington	—	—
Ashwell	1	—
Askham Grange	—	—
Aylesbury	—	—
Bedford	6	6
Belmarsh	—	—
Birmingham	—	—
Blantyre House	—	—
Blundeston	—	—
Brinsford	—	—
Bristol	10	9
Brixton	1	1
Buckley Hall	—	—
Bullingdon	—	—
Bullwood Hall	—	—
Bure	30	30
Canterbury	—	—
Cardiff	—	—
Castington	—	—
Channings Wood	—	—
Chelmsford	1	1
Coldingley	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—
Dartmoor	—	—
Deerbolt	—	—
Dorchester	—	—
Dover	—	—
Downview	—	—
Drake Hall	—	—
Durham	—	—
East Sutton Park	—	—
Eastwood Park	—	—
Edmunds Hill	—	—
Erlestoke	—	—
Everthorpe	—	—
Exeter	—	—
Featherstone	—	—
Feltham	7	7
Ford	—	—
Foston Hall	2	2
Frankland	5	5
Full Sutton	—	—
Garth	—	—
Gartree	2	2
Glen Parva	5	5
Gloucester	—	—
Grendon	—	—
Guys Marsh	—	—
Haslar	—	—
Haverigg	—	—
Hewell	4	4
High Down	—	—
Highpoint	—	—
Hindley	3	3
Hollesley Bay	—	—
Holloway	2	2
Holme House	6	6
Hull	—	—
Huntercombe	1	1
Isis	50	50

Prison officer 2s appointed—September 2009 to June 2010

	Prison officer 2s	
Establishment	Total appointed[1]	Total in post 30 June 2010
Isle of Wight	—	—
Kennet	—	—
Kingston	—	—
Kirkham	—	—
Kirklevington Grange	—	—
Lancaster	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—
Latchmere House	—	—
Leeds	—	—
Leicester	3	3
Lewes	—	—
Leyhill	—	—
Lincoln	1	1
Lindholme	—	—
Littlehey	74	71
Liverpool	—	—
Long Lartin	—	—
Low Newton	—	—
Maidstone	—	—
Manchester	—	—
Moorland	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—
New Hall	—	—
North Sea Camp	—	—
Northallerton	1	1
Norwich	6	6
Nottingham	42	39
Onley	1	1
Pentonville	7	7
Portland	—	—
Preston	—	—
Ranby	—	—
Reading	2	2
Risley	—	—
Rochester	2	2
Send	—	—
Sheppey Cluster	89	82
Shepton Mallet	—	—
Shrewsbury	—	—
Stafford	—	—
Stocken	5	5
Stoke Heath	11	11
Styal	—	—
Sudbury	—	—
Swansea	—	—
Swinfen Hall	2	1
The Mount	—	—
The Verne	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	—
Usk/Prescoed	—	—
Wakefield	—	—
Wandsworth	2	2
Warren Hill	1	1
Wayland	4	4
Wealstun	26	25
Wellingborough	1	1
Werrington	—	—
Wetherby	9	9
Whatton	2	2
Whitemoor	—	—
Winchester	—	—
Woodhill	1	1
Wormwood Scrubs	2	2
Wymott	—	—
Total	430	413

[1] Includes directly recruited staff and staff converted from other grades. A total of 430 prison officer 2s have been appointed and 413 remained in post at 30 June 2010. An examination of the individual service lengths of these staff shows an annual turnover rate of 12.6 percent. Leaving rates are historically always highest in the first few months of service.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff of each grade were employed at *(a)* HM Prison Service Headquarters, *(b)* each area office and *(c)* each non-prison establishment operated by the Prison Service on 31 March in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [25500]

(2) which grades of staff are classified by HM Prison Service as front-line staff; and if he will make a statement; [25501]

(3) how many staff of each grade are employed by HM Prison Service in *(a)* prison establishments, *(b)* Prison Service headquarters and *(c)* each other Prison Service-operated (i) service and (ii) areas on the latest date for which figures are available. [25502]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of staff employed at Prison Service or National Offender Management Service headquarters, area offices or Director of Offender Management offices and other non-prison establishments on 31 March in each year since 2006 is contained in tables placed in the Libraries of the House. A table is also included that provides staff numbers for 30 June 2010 (the date of the most recent published staffing data) which also includes figures for the number of staff in Prison Service establishments. Each of these tables breaks down the staff numbers by grade. Non-prison establishments are taken to be units where no prisoners are held and include regional based support teams and central services associated with prison clusters. Over the period being asked about certain staff who previously worked in establishments have been redesignated as headquarters staff. Direct comparisons over the period are therefore not straightforward.

The Prison Service does not define front-line posts in terms of particular grades. All staff working within Prison Service establishments deliver front-line services and these could occupy the range of grades specified in the tables.

Prisons: Recruitment

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have passed the Prison Service recruitment assessment day to become a prison officer 2 since January 2010; and if he will make a statement; [25275]

(2) how many of those who have passed the Prison Service recruitment assessment day to become a prison officer 2 since January 2010 subsequently failed the Service's pre-employment checks; and if he will make a statement; [25276]

(3) how many prison officer 2 staff have been employed by the Prison Service since September 2009; how many such staff remain in employment with the service as a prison officer 2; and if he will make a statement. [25277]

Mr Blunt: The number of people who have passed the Prison Service recruitment assessment day to become a prison officer 2 between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010 (the date of the latest published staffing information) is 522. Of these, 32 failed pre-employment checks.

Between 1 September 2009 and 30 June 2010, a total of 430 staff took up post as prison officer 2s. Of these, 413 remained in that grade on 30 June 2010.

Prisons: Visits

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are made for prisoners at HM Prison Chelmsford to be advised of *(a)* visits by prison visitors and *(b)* procedures for requesting a meeting with a prison visitor. [25173]

Mr Blunt: It is assumed the hon. Member is referring to visits to prisoners by official prison visitors (OPVs). Prisoners who require such a visit make an application to the Chaplaincy who will facilitate any request. The scheme is advertised around the establishment on posters and is also advertised locally by the Chaplaincy department.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates prison visitors visited HMP Chelmsford in *(a)* August, *(b)* September and *(c)* October 2010; how many prison visitors participated in each visit; and how many prisoners were spoken to on each visit. [25174]

Mr Blunt: It is assumed the hon. Member is referring to visits to prisoners by official prison visitors (OPVs).

There have been no such visits in the period 1 August to 31 October 2010.

Probation Service: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding was allocated to the probation service in Dorset in 2009-10; and how much funding will be allocated in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [25648]

Mr Blunt: The probation service in Dorset was allocated £9,200,000 funding in 2009-10 and £8,871,876 funding in 2010-11 from the Ministry of Justice. The budget for 2011-12 has not yet been set.

Probation Service: Employment

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were employed by *(a)* Durham and *(b)* Teesside probation areas on 31 December 2009; [25259]

(2) how many people were employed by Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust on 30 June 2010. [25260][1]

Mr Blunt: The total staff in post for Durham Probation Area on 31 December 2009 was 268.65 FTE (full-time equivalent), and for Teesside Probation Area this was 292.06 FTE.

The total staff in post in Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust on 30 June 2010 was 572.27 FTE (full-time equivalent).

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serious injuries sustained during the use of restraint procedures required hospital treatment for *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in each secure training centre in each month since April 2008. [25381]

Mr Blunt: There were no serious injuries sustained during the use of restraint procedures requiring hospital treatment in any month in 2008-09 in secure training centres. Data for injuries are not available by gender.

The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board annual workload data are released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 have been looked at.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restraint procedures were used on *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in each secure training centre in each month since April 2008. [25383]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of restraints used on *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in each secure training centre for each month in 2008-09.

Number of restraints

	2008									*2009*		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Male												
Hassockfield	20	26	29	39	47	17	27	34	34	14	46	51
Medway	54	19	32	30	14	13	32	16	15	9	36	58
Oakhill	35	9	23	47	28	27	28	15	30	40	23	24
Rainsbrook	12	8	16	9	13	5	14	16	9	14	6	11
Female												
Hassockfield	15	12	7	15	3	23	15	0	14	19	16	20
Medway	4	7	7	15	16	21	9	5	11	4	7	13

---

[1] *[Official Report, 13 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 4MC.]*

Number of restraints

	2008									2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Oakhill	26	13	8	24	21	7	10	8	1	5	3	4
Rainsbrook	15	16	14	12	25	39	24	13	28	38	8	9

Notes:
1. The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board annual workload data are released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 are given.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serious injuries requiring hospital treatment were sustained during use of control and restraint procedures in each young offender institution juvenile unit in each month since April 2008. [25384]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of serious injuries sustained during the use of control and restraint procedures in each month in 2008-09 in young offender institutions.

	2008									2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Ashfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brinsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castington	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Downview	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Huntercombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke Heath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:
1. The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board annual workload data are released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 are given.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.
3. Cookham Wood YOI opened in May 2008.
4. Lancaster Farms closed in February 2009.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many minor injuries resulted from the use of control and restraint procedures in each young offender institution juvenile unit in each month since April 2008. [25385]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of minor injuries sustained during the use of control and restraint procedures in each month in 2008-09 in young offender institutions.

	2008									2009		
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Ashfield	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brinsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Castington	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cookham Wood[1]	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downview	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindley	6	1	3	—	1	—	4	—	—	5	1	15

	2008									*2009*		
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Huntercombe	6	—	—	2	6	11	7	1	3	1	2	1
Lancaster Farms[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke Heath	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warren Hill	—	—	3	5	3	2	1	4	2	5	5	3
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	4	2	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	1

[1] Cookham Wood YOI opened in May 2008.

[2] Lancaster Farms closed in February 2009.

Notes:

1. The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board Annual Workload Data is released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 are given.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times control and restraint procedures have been used on girls in each young offender institution juvenile unit in each month since April 2008. [25386]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of restraints used on females in each young offender institution in each month in 2008-09.

	2008									*2009*		
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Downview	1	2	2	12	10	5	4	—	1	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	3	1	5	5	—	—	3	2	—	1	8	1
Foston Hall	3	8	8	3	1	2	—	2	3	—	3	—
New Hall	6	8	8	8	10	7	22	8	7	1	3	7

Notes:

1. The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board Annual Workload Data is released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 are given.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions control and restraint procedures have been used on boys in each young offender institution juvenile unit in each month since April 2008. [25515]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of restraints used on males in each young offender institution in each month in 2008-09.

	2008								*2009*			
	April	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*
Ashfield	45	53	74	41	51	53	43	50	36	46	25	39
Brinsford	13	5	5	6	5	5	11	12	20	4	4	10
Castington	25	17	15	15	21	16	25	27	11	17	18	18
Cookham Wood[1]	0	1	35	39	26	10	13	19	27	30	55	71
Feltham	38	31	50	41	22	64	44	34	13	41	48	64
Hindley	26	34	48	28	32	39	26	25	26	31	24	39
Huntercombe	49	43	43	43	29	46	41	43	32	41	33	21
Lancaster Farms[2]	34	41	33	35	26	19	22	21	23	4	0	0
Parc	10	24	9	6	13	6	11	11	7	6	8	7
Stoke Heath	11	9	9	11	15	19	9	22	13	6	10	6
Warren Hill	19	22	25	29	19	38	37	38	22	25	25	27
Werrington	25	37	56	36	28	47	30	20	16	18	17	18

	2008								*2009*			
	April	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*
Wetherby	30	39	11	28	27	27	34	40	32	23	26	39

[1] Cookham Wood YOI opened in May 2008.

[2] Lancaster Farms closed in February 2009.

Notes:

1. The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board Annual Workload Data are released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 are given.

2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 237W, on sentencing, what has happened to the remaining 90 people who had been given or were awaiting another disposal. [25432]

Mr Blunt: Set out is a breakdown of the 90 offenders who were not given an immediate or suspended custodial sentence following revocation:

40 were sentenced to a new IAC

40 were sentenced to a community order

Two were fined

One received a conditional discharge

One was given a curfew

One order was incorrectly reported as revoked when it actually continued with additional requirements attached

One order was incorrectly reported as 'other' when it was a suspended sentence.

Of the four offenders who were pending sentence at the time:

One received a suspended sentence order

Two received custody

One was issued with a warrant without bail

Sexual Offences: Sentencing

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sex offenders have been subject to an indeterminate public protection sentence since 2003; and how many of those have since been released from custody. [25175]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons given an indeterminate sentence (known as imprisonment for public protection (IPP)) for sexual offences in England and Wales, 2005 to 2009 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2003 and 2004 are unavailable as IPPs came into force on 4 April 2005.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

As at 17 November 2010, 26 offenders serving an IPP sentence for sexual offences have been released from custody, five of whom were subsequently recalled. This figure does not include offenders who have been subject to deportation and excludes eight IPP offenders where we are currently waiting for updated information.

It also excludes offenders issued with an IPP who may have had their sentence quashed or reduced on appeal, and therefore is only a subset of the figures quoted in the table.

The figures on releases were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting updates.

Number of persons sentenced to imprisonment for public protection (IPP)[1], for sexual offences, 2005 to 2009[2,3,4]

Offence group	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Sexual offences	48	328	400	375	298

[1] S.225 and 226 Criminal Justice Act 2003 — Detention for Public Protection in the case of offenders under 18.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] IPPs commenced on 4 April 2005.

Source:

Justice Statistics — Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Squatting

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to bring forward legislative proposals on squatting. [25068]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 3 November to the hon. Member for Hove (Mike Weatherley) *Official Report*, column 835W.

> 'We are considering whether the law in relation to squatting, or the way it is enforced, should be strengthened, but we have not yet reached any firm conclusions.'

Terrorism: Victim Support Schemes

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation Scheme will begin to operate; and on what date it is likely to make its first payments to victims of overseas terrorism. [24760]

Mr Blunt: Decisions have not yet been taken on this scheme.

Youth Justice Board

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will put in place arrangements to ensure all areas of the UK have the same access to youth justice services after the abolition of the Youth Justice Board. [25998]

Mr Blunt: The decision to abolish the Youth Justice Board will not impact on the delivery of youth justice services in England and Wales. The main functions of the Youth Justice Board will remain in place. This includes the oversight of local authority youth offending teams, disseminating effective practice, commissioning a distinct secure estate and placing young people in custody. These functions will take place within a distinct delivery framework within the Ministry of Justice.

The Youth Justice Board's responsibilities cover England and Wales only. The responsibility for the delivery of youth justice services in Scotland and Northern Ireland is devolved to those administrations.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to reformulate its definition of creative industries to take into account recent *(a)* cultural and *(b)* commercial developments in the digital media sector. [25370]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has no current plans to reformulate its definition of the creative industries. However we have recently produced an updated Standard Industrial Codes framework. This will enable greater accuracy in our forthcoming 2010 economic estimates for the creative industries, which has by the nature of the exercise entailed a slight revision of the areas included.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will make it his policy to collect data on the number of jobs in the digital arts industry; and if he will make a statement; [25423]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the digital arts sector to the economy. [25424]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not collect data specifically for the digital arts industry. However, it does produce annual estimates of the contribution of the creative industries to the economy in terms of gross value added (GVA) and the number of people employed in the creative industries. The latest version of this publication was released in February 2010, and can be accessed at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/4848.aspx

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last visited a digital arts enterprise. [25425]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State visited iBurbia studios in Chiswick on 11 November.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to encourage *(a)* new starts and *(b)* relocations from overseas in the digital arts sector; and if he will make a statement. [25426]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is working closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to ensure that the creative industries, including the Digital Arts, are able to take full advantage of appropriate measures to encourage the development of start-up businesses and entrepreneurship.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) assists UK based companies in the creative industries sector to succeed in international markets and assists overseas creative companies to invest in the UK. UKTI will be announcing a new four-year strategy, for the lifetime of this Parliament, early in the new year.

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with the Director-General of the BBC; and whether the matter of pensions was discussed. [24711]

Mr Vaizey: The permanent secretary, Jonathan Stephens, had a meeting with Mark Thompson on 10 November, during which the BBC pension scheme was not discussed. There have been no other meetings with the director-general of the BBC since the terms of the licence fee agreement were settled on 18 and 19 October. The cost of BBC pensions was referred to in discussing the settlement.

Broadcasting: Scotland

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment in respect of the economic effects on the Scottish broadcasting sector of the Government's decision not to accept the recommendation by Ofcom that Scottish Television should be classified as a qualified independent producer. [25011]

Mr Vaizey: An impact assessment was undertaken as part of the consultation exercise on the potential reclassification of production companies owned by Channel 3 licence holders.

The impact assessment analysed the problem, the case for government intervention, the policy objectives and the costs and benefits of the recommendation in the Digital Britain White Paper. The assessment included an estimate from STV of how it would benefit if the recommendation were implemented. The assessment was published as part of the consultation:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6415.aspx

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated in grants for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to allocate for 2011-12. [25815]

John Penrose: The first table shows grants (both capital and resource) that have been awarded by the Department in 2009-10 and 2010-11, and those announced for 2011-12. The second table includes grants in 2009-10 and 2010-11 for those organisations where announcements for 2011-12 have yet to be made.

£000

Grant	*Organisation*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]	*2011-12*
National Coal Mining Museum of England	National Coal Mining Museum of England	2,805	2,794	2,707
Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums	Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums	2,399	2,847	1,918
Design Museum	Design Museum	425	424	328
National Football Museum	National Football Museum	105	105	0
People's History Museum	People's History Museum	373	173	168
Former Royal Naval College Greenwich	Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College	1,500	1,455	1,388
Chatham Historic Dockyard	The Historic Dockyard, Chatham	850	291	278
Restoration of the Cutty Sark	Cutty Sark Trust	0	0	3,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	Groups occupying eligible Places of Worship	14,696	14,469	[2]12,100
National Film and Television School	National Film and Television School	3,059	3,038	2,904
Strategic Commissioning Grants for Museum and Arts Education[3]	National Museums, Galleries, the British Library and Arts Council England	2,013	1,885	0
British Chess Federation	British Chess Federation	60	45	0
Free Swimming—Grants for Under 16s and over 60s	Local Authorities in England	34,045	11,318	0
Free Swimming—regional co-ordinators and swimming lessons[3]	Amateur Swimming Association	5,816	2,684	0
Develop Smart phone application to provide access to Culture 24 database	Culture 24	50	0	0
Creative Bursaries	The Jerwood Foundation	350	0	0
Music Rehearsal Spaces	Sound Connections	368	0	0
Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence evaluation	Skills Active	5	0	0
Development Grant	The Jewish Museum	100	0	0
Operational Grant	The Wedgwood Museum	25	0	0
Development Grant	The Wiener Library	100	0	0
Development Grant	Bletchley Park Trust	250	0	0
Restoration of King Edward's Chair	Westminster Abbey	150	0	0
TV on Demand	ATVOD Ltd	120	0	0
Community Radio	Community Media Association	40	0	0

£000

Grant	*Organisation*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
DCMS/Wolfson Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund[3]	Museums and Galleries with eligible collections	4,656	5,682
Connections through Culture	British Council—China	100	100
Memorials Grant Scheme	Registered Charities and Faith Groups	87	500
Own Art—running costs of the art purchase scheme[3]	Art Co (trading arm of Arts Council England)	250	375
Take it Away—running costs of musical instrument purchase scheme[3]	Art Co (trading arm of Arts Council England)	750	625
Youth Mentoring—Music	Youth Music	333	322
Poetry Archive	Poetry Archive Ltd	120	120
Poetry Society	Poetry Society	6	11
Change4life[3]	Youth Sport Trust	3,380	750
Dancelinks	Arts Council England	100	50
UK School Games	Legacy Trust UK	10	725
Tourism for All	Tourism for All	10	15
International Inspirations[3]	II Foundation	800	1,600
Youth mentoring - Media	Media Trust	333	323
Tsunami Memorial	Tsunami Support UK (TSUK)	150	400

[1] Total value of the grants in 2010-11, planned or forecast.
[2] This sum is gross of administration costs for the scheme.
[3] These grants are fully or part funded by other organisations or Government Departments.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has assessed the merits of providing support for the switchover to digital radio to people who *(a)* are blind or partially sighted, *(b)* have low incomes, *(c)* are aged over 65 years and *(d)* have learning disabilities or cognitive difficulties. [25183]

Mr Vaizey: As part of the ongoing work of the Digital Radio Action Plan the Government will be looking closely at which listeners, if any, would be disproportionately disadvantaged by a digital radio switchover. These considerations, along with the cost benefit analysis and impact assessment will determine whether provisions need to be made to support some listeners in switching to digital radio.

To ensure future policy takes account of the wide range of listeners' needs, the Consumer Expert Group (which originally formed to inform the digital TV switchover process) has agreed to extend its scope to cover radio.

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has plans for a public information campaign prior to the digital radio switchover. [25185]

Mr Vaizey: If a decision is made to set a digital radio switchover date, we expect it will be supported by a comprehensive public information campaign.

Olympic Games 2012: North-East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the legacy for the North East of the London 2012 Olympics. [25071]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 Games.

The north-east stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games, through businesses winning Games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how the north-east will benefit from the Games are as follows.

Across the UK over 124,000 companies have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised) and over 1,200 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers. Information on businesses in the north-east that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available on the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

St James Park is a 2012 venue for the preliminary rounds of the football competition and will be one of the key non-London venues. Along with Pre-Games Training Camps it will provide an opportunity to create further economic benefits, including inward investment, through the international attention that will follow. In the north-east there are 20 facilities, that met the criteria to be world-class training venues for Olympic and Paralympic sport, which are included in the official London 2012 Pre- Games Training Camp Guide. The guide is accessible at the following link:

http://trainingcamps.london2012.com

Agreements have been signed with the Olympic Committee of Colombia and the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka to hold training camps in the region before the start of the Games.

Over 890 cultural and sporting programmes across the UK have been awarded Inspire Marks, including 50 in the north-east. Over 15,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's education programme 'Get Set'; 693 of those are in the north-east—53.6% of the total number in the region.

The north-east has secured £1.53 million from the Legacy Trust for the region's 'Generation 2012' project. This initiative provides opportunities for regional cultural organisations and young people to work together to develop up to 10 high quality, aspirational 2012 projects in the region, bringing people together for community activities of all kinds.

In addition, I recently announced the 'Places People Play' programme, which will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring people to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy. Further detail can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7565.aspx

Olympic Games 2012: Yorkshire and the Humber

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the potential legacy for Yorkshire and the Humber of the London 2012 Olympics. [25184]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 Games.

Yorkshire and Humberside stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how Yorkshire and Humberside will benefit from the Games are as follows.

Across the UK over 124,000 companies have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised) and over 1,200 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers. Information on businesses in Yorkshire and Humberside that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available on the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

Locations across the UK, particularly those that are hosting international teams in pre-games training camps (PGTCs), have additional opportunities to realise the economic benefits of the games. Agreements have been signed with five teams to hold training camps in the region, including agreements with the USA diving team and the Netherlands swim team.

Across the UK over 850 cultural and sporting programmes have been awarded Inspire Marks, 66 being in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. Over 15,000 schools and colleges have registered for LOCOG's education programme Get Set; 1,273 are registered in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Through the Legacy Trust UK Yorkshire has created "imove", the region's signature programme for the Cultural Olympiad. It aims to transform the relationship between people in Yorkshire and their moving bodies through unique crossovers between culture, sport and physical education.

In addition, I have recently announced the "Places People Play" programme, which will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring people to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy. Further details can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7565.aspx

UK Film Council

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) which organisations will be responsible for the functions carried out by the UK Film Council after its abolition; [25766]

(2) which body will be responsible for securing inward investment into the British film industry following the abolition of the UK Film Council. [25767]

Mr Vaizey: An announcement on where key UKFC functions will be transferred will be made by the end of November.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Mr Reid: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what constitutes the area of a constituency as referred to in Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill; and what consideration is given to inland water and tidal changes when defining such an area. [25683]

Mr Harper: The Bill does not define the area of a constituency but the Government understand that the Boundary Commissions will use data provided by the Ordnance Survey in calculating the area of constituencies. The National Statistics dataset called standard area measurements measures area to "Extent of the realm"—which includes the foreshore, areas of inland water, and statutory seaward extensions to local authority areas and excludes any other areas of sea.

Electoral Register

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he is taking steps to monitor the performance of returning officers. [24465]

Mr Harper: The Government do not plan to take any specific steps to monitor the performance of returning officers. Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Electoral Commission may determine and publish performance standards for returning officers, counting officers and electoral registration officers. To date, the Commission has published performance standards for both returning officers for the conduct of elections, and electoral registration officers for their registration duties. We will closely monitor the impact of performance standards on driving up the overall quality of electoral administration. The Commission has also published reports drawing together its findings on the performance of regional returning officers and local returning officers at the 2009 European parliamentary and local elections.

The Electoral Commission has informed me that it will be monitoring the performance of the deputy chief counting officer and counting officers for the referendum on the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales to be held on 3 March 2011, and of the regional counting officers and counting officers across the United Kingdom in running the proposed referendum on the voting system on 5 May 2011. The Commission will also be monitoring the performance of returning officers who will be running combined events in Great Britain, such as the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and English local elections.

CABINET OFFICE

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the director-general of the BBC; and whether the matter of pensions was discussed at those meetings. [24717]

Mr Hurd: Details of Cabinet Office Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 13 May- 31 July can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-cabinet-office/plans-performance/ministers-data.aspx

Information for 1 August to 30 September will be published shortly.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent meetings *(a)* officials and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have had with the Director-General of the BBC; and whether pensions were discussed at those meetings. [25015]

Mr Maude: Civil servants, including special advisers, have meetings with many organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. A record of such meetings is not held centrally.

Charities

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to bring forward secondary legislation to enable charitable incorporated organisations to be incorporated under the provisions of the Charities Act 2006. [25340]

Mr Hurd: Our aim is to get the necessary supporting legislation before Parliament for debate early next year with a view to the first charitable incorporated organisations being established from spring 2011. I have yet to agree the implementation timetable, but the availability of the charitable incorporated organisation model for existing charities will have to be phased in over time to help manage the expected demand.

Charity Commission: Finance

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to his answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 414-15W, if he will take steps to ensure that the Charity Commission's funding settlement for the period to 2015 does not adversely affect the Commission's ability to *(a)* investigate allegations of fraud, *(b)* investigate allegations of diverting charitable funds to international terrorist organisations and *(c)* enforce charity law. [25629]

Mr Hurd: The Charity Commission, like other Government Departments, is facing tough decisions about its future priorities. It is undertaking a strategic review to focus on the key priorities for its future work, including seeking the views of the public and other stakeholders. In addition, the statutory review of the Charities Act 2006 which is due to take place in 2011 will consider potential changes to the legislative framework for charities and the commission.

I will discuss the points raised by the hon. Member when I next meet the commission's chair and chief executive. I do not want to pre-empt the outcome of the commission's strategic review, but I am confident that the commission can continue to be an effective regulator of charities in England and Wales.

Departmental Services: Post Office

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in each year since 2004-05. [24905]

Mr Maude: The amounts the Cabinet Office has paid to *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in each year since 2004-05 are shown in the following table:

£

	Post Office Ltd	*Royal Mail*
2004-05	—	400,396
2005-06	—	205,431
2006-07	—	220,403
2007-08	—	219,021
2008-09	—	223,433
2009-10	—	202,454

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24906]

Mr Maude: The vast majority of mail services for the Cabinet Office and the Emergency Planning College (EPC) in York are provided by Royal Mail.

Directgov is working with the Post Office on a pilot to identify how Government Departments can deliver the services that are available on Directgov to a wider audience via the Post Office network.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24388]

Mr Maude: In the last six months, my Department has not revoked any regulatory measures.

However, the Cabinet Office has the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and its associated regulations under review, with a view to rationalising regulatory burdens. The Charities Act 2006 contains a requirement that it is reviewed in 2011.

We have also launched a Civil Society Red Tape Taskforce, chaired by Lord Hodgson, with the intention of making it easier to run a charity, voluntary organisation or social enterprise by identifying areas where bureaucracy can be reduced or simplified. The taskforce will be reporting early in 2011.

We will also be continuing to scrutinise our stock of regulation and pipeline measures inherited from the previous administration with a view to finding OUTs, for the One-in, One-out regulatory management system.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24502]

Mr Hurd: My Department has not introduced any regulatory measures to Parliament in the last six months.

Employment

Jake Berry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population of Rossendale and Darwen constituency is employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [25362]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population of Rossendale and Darwen constituency is employed in the (a) public and (b) private sector. (025362)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) preferred source of statistics for public sector employment is the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and external sources, however figures from this source are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Alternatively public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in QPSES statistics.

According to APS figures, in the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010, 68 per cent of the working population of the Rossendale and Darwen constituency were employed by the private sector with the remaining 32 per cent employed in the public sector.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Government Departments: Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the number of *(a)* directly-employed and *(b)* contracted staff of Government Departments who are being paid at a rate under £7.85 per hour. [24811]

Mr Maude: For staff outside the senior civil service (SCS), pay and grading is delegated to Departments and agencies, enabling management to set pay levels that meet their own particular business, operational and work force needs. Under the delegated arrangements, Cabinet Office does not collect the information requested.

The Office for National Statistics collects and publishes earnings information covering the home civil service as part of its Annual Civil Service Employment Survey. The latest available data, as at 31 March 2009, are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

The Cabinet Office does not collect the information requested on staff employed by private contractors working in Government Departments.

Government Departments: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take in circumstances where Government departments have not *(a)* initiated plans to increase the number of contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* met the aspiration for 25 per cent. of contracts to be awarded to such enterprises. [22502]

Mr Maude: We fully expect that Departments will take the actions needed to fulfil the 25% aspiration, supported by the measures we announced on 1 November.

A number of the actions will be mandated for central Departments, with non-compliance made transparent.

Inquiries: Public Appointments

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the usual criteria are which are applied to the suitability of a candidate for engagement as Secretary to a Government inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [24314]

(2) pursuant to the letter to the hon. Member for Dwyfor Meirionnydd, what the internal Cabinet Office human resource processes are which come into play when a press secretary to the secretariat of a Government inquiry is appointed; and if he will make a statement. [24315]

Mr Maude: When the Government decide to establish an independent inquiry, decisions about the appointment of the Inquiry Secretary are taken by the relevant Department in consultation with the inquiry chairman.

An Inquiry Secretariat including press office staff is usually staffed by civil servants seconded from Government Departments which will follow departmental HR procedures. In considering the suitability of individuals for the roles, a number of factors will be taken into account including the individual's availability, their skills and experience that may be relevant for the role, and the potential for any conflict of interest.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Bone: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Wellingborough and *(b)* the UK. [25171]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance in (a) Wellingborough and (b) the UK (21571).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The most recent number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance in Wellingborough and UK are available from the latest Labour Market Statistics Bulletin for the East Midlands at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsemids1110.pdf

MI5: Finance

Mr Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget was of the Security Service in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and what his latest estimate is of the budget for 2010-11. [25166]

Mr Maude: The budget for the Security Service forms an element of the security and intelligence agencies' budget which is voted by Parliament as a consolidated allocation. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal details of the security and intelligence agencies' budgets and spending, beyond that which is already published.

Parliamentary Private Secretaries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which hon. Members are Parliamentary Private Secretaries in each Department. [24668]

Mr Maude: A list of Parliamentary Private Secretaries was published on 17 November 2010 and is available at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/11/government-publishes-list-of-parliamentary-private-secretaries-57099

Public Sector: Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) which public bodies have adopted the 2009 guidance of the Office of Government Commerce, Promoting skills through public procurement; [24477]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships which have been created as a result of application of the 2009 guidance of the Office of Government Commerce, Promoting skills through public procurement. [24478]

Mr Hurd: This information is not held centrally.

Serco

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions he has had with Serco on its provision of services to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [24817]

Mr Maude: I have been leading a programme of negotiation with the Government's top suppliers. This work was identified as a key element of the package of measures designed to deliver £6.2 billion of savings during 2010-11, and involves discussions across the portfolio of contracts each supplier holds with central Government.

I have not had any discussions with Serco specifically in relation to the provision of services to the Cabinet Office.

Third Sector: Finance

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department plans to ring-fence funding allocated to local authorities for use by voluntary and community groups. [24169]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

Spending decisions are, and will continue to be, a matter for local authorities, and we do not intend to place restrictions on any decisions they might make on funding, including grants to the voluntary sector. We and local authorities recognise the rich diversity of voluntary and community groups and their potential for delivering what people want. We do not expect authorities to respond to reductions in their budgets by passing on disproportionate cuts to other service providers, especially the voluntary sector.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 805W, to the hon. Member for Sefton Central (Bill Esterson).

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the level of financial support for local voluntary and community groups of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [25007]

Mr Hurd: It is currently too early to evaluate the impact of the comprehensive spending review on voluntary and community groups; however the Cabinet Office is working closely with partners in the sector, across Government and the Third Sector Research Centre to examine the exposure of the sector to public spending reductions and mitigate potential impacts.

The big society presents a great opportunity for voluntary and community groups, as we open up public services and devolve power; and the Government are therefore committed to supporting the sector through this transitional period. This includes: a £100 million transition fund to help organisations with shortfalls in the short-term; publishing evidence and best practice to support government at all levels to make cuts wisely and in partnership with the sector; and, setting out policy measures to open up new sources of funding and help the sector maximise new opportunities in the strategy document "Building a Stronger Civil Society".

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future real terms level of Government grant to *(a)* the Workers' Educational Association and *(b)* other specialist designated institutions providing adult education in the current Parliament. [24067]

Mr Hayes: "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (16 November 2010) sets out the funding strategy for post-19 further education (FE) and skills. In 2011-12 financial year we will invest £3.9 billion to support an expansion of Adult (19+) Apprenticeships, fully subsidise basic literacy and numeracy and first full level 2 and level 3 qualifications for young adults. We will also support individuals who are unemployed and on active benefits, and protect and reform spending on adult and community learning.

The allocation of funding for the 2011/12 academic year will be carried out by the Skills Funding Agency, over the coming months, in line with the overall post-19 FE and Skills funding envelope. This will include making funding allocations for the Workers' Educational Association and other specialist designated institutions.

Cement: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the likely financial costs to the cement industry in each EU member state of compliance with the EU Commission's proposal for a hybrid clinker benchmark for phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [25727]

Mr Prisk: The Minister has met with representatives from the UK cement industry, to discuss the free allocation rules for phase III of the EU ETS (the benchmarking proposals).

The cement industry has provided information to the Minister and to BIS officials on the impact of the current benchmarking proposals within the UK. This information includes estimates of the financial costs of the proposals within the UK. These estimates vary depending on the level of the carbon price and how the proposals are implemented.

BIS does not hold data on the likely financial costs to the cement industry in other EU members states.

The information provided by the cement industry indicates that the UK's particular supply chain structure is significantly different to that of other members states. The benchmarking proposals do not currently take this difference into account.

BIS officials are working closely with DECC officials to analyse the proposals in detail in order to assess the impact on industry. They will also be having discussions with the European Commission on this issue and further discussions with industry before any conclusions are reached.

Company Reports

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to ensure that company reports contain accurate, balanced and reliable information on social and environmental issues; and if he will make a statement. [25339]

Mr Davey: To meet a coalition commitment, the Department has recently consulted on the future of narrative reporting with the objective to drive up the quality of narrative reporting to the standard of the best including on social and environmental issues. The Department is now considering the responses and will publish a summary in December.

Departmental Internet

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's budget is for websites for 2011-12. [25435]

Mr Davey: The BIS website budget for 2011-12 has not yet been finalised, but I am able to provide an outline of planned spend for the corporate website.

www.bis.gov.uk

£180,000 is contractually committed for the annual web hosting and service charge.

Between £80,000 and £100,000 will be spent on website maintenance and development.

Around £20,000 will be required for standards compliance and performance management activities, as mandated by Central Office of Information.

Staff requirements for 2011-12 have yet to be determined.

As a result of web convergence, there will also be cost associated with migrating BIS partner organisation websites on to the BIS web platform. For 2011-12 this is estimated to be £150,000 in total, based on an assumption of nine partners joining the platform. This cost will be paid by those partners.

It should be noted that the new BIS web platform, launched in March 2010, will cost £2.5 million less over four years compared to the cost of the previous contract. And by offering that platform as a shared service for our partner organisations, the BIS family stands to save up to £2 million more.

Departmental Services: Post Office

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24904]

Mr Davey: On 9 November the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published the policy statement 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age'. This document provides detail on Government's ambition for the Post Office to function as a front office for local and central Government.

As the Department that is responsible for Government's 100% shareholding in Post Office Ltd, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has worked alongside the Cabinet Office and Post Office Ltd to identify opportunities where the Post Office will be able to compete for future Government services across government and its agencies.

The Department continues to take a constructive approach to explore opportunities where the Post Office can offer and compete for the provision of services.

Electric Cables: Compensation

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had on the future of wayleave payments. [25418]

Mr Vaizey: Wayleave discussions have taken place in connection with the discussion paper 'Broadband deployment and sharing other utilities infrastructure', published on 15 July. In the paper, wayleave payments were identified as one of the problems associated with sharing non-telecommunications utilities infrastructure. Wayleaves have also featured in preliminary discussions about whether it would be appropriate to carry out a review of the Electronic Communications Code.

Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what modelling his Department has undertaken on the elasticity of demand for higher education; and if he will make a statement. [24122]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* To support the Browne Review and the Government's response to it, we commissioned research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) to explore how changes in fees, grants and loans impact on young participation.

This research exploited variation in grants, fees and loans over the period 1992-2007, and the results indicate that a £1,000 increase in fees, without any compensating increase in loans or grants, results in a 4.4ppt decrease in university participation, while a £1,000 increase in loans results in a 3.2ppt increase in participation, and a £1,000 increase in grants results in a 2.1 ppt increase in participation. So students do respond to changes in the price of HE.

However, this research also concludes that the package of reforms introduced in 2006 had no impact on participation, largely because tuition fees were accompanied by large increases in loans and grants.

Source:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/i/10-1188-impact-finance-on-university-participation.pdf

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were in higher education in *(a)* England, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Great Yarmouth constituency in each year from January 2005 to January 2010. [24683]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information on the numbers of enrolments from England, Norfolk local authority area, and Great Yarmouth constituency to higher education courses at UK higher education institutions is shown in the table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2011. Comparable figures for students enrolled on higher education courses at further education colleges are not available.

Enrolments[1] from England[2], Norfolk local authority area[3] and Great Yarmouth constituency[3] UK higher education institutions[4], academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*England*	*Norfolk*	*Great Yarmouth*
2004/05	1,433,010	17,245	1,405
2005/06	1,466,660	17,440	1,425
2006/07	1,461,895	18,605	1,475
2007/08	1,454,995	17,215	1,520
2008/09	1,504,500	17,240	1,510

[1] Covers postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Covers English-domiciled students.

[3] Figures in the table do not include enrolments where the local authority or the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[4] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Higher Education: Cumbria

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to support potential students from West Cumbria who wish to access higher education opportunities. [24803]

Mr Willetts: The Government have set out plans to reform higher education student finance which will offer a more generous package of financial support for students wishing to attend university in 2012/13, including those from West Cumbria. No full-time student will need to contribute to their tuition costs up-front and students from families with incomes of £25,000 or less will be entitled to a more generous full maintenance grant of £3,250 a year. Those from families with incomes up to around £42,000 will be entitled to a partial grant. For the first time, students starting part-time courses in 2012/13 will be entitled to an up-front loan towards their tuition costs so long as they are studying at an intensity of at least 33% of a full time course.

Universities or colleges wishing to charge students more than £6,000 a year, up to a ceiling of £9,000, will be required to draw up an access agreement with the Office for Fair Access in order to widen participation in higher education. In addition, a new £150 million National Scholarships programme will guarantee bright potential students from poor backgrounds extra grant to help them meet the costs of going to university.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding the Higher Education Funding Council for England has allocated for undergraduate courses in price groups C and D *(a)* in total and *(b)* for each higher education institution for 2010-11. [23674]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* The information requested is in a table produced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. I will place a copy of it in the House Library. It should be noted that the data cover the 2010-11 academic year and may be subject to change. In addition, the figures give no indication of income to universities in future years. The Government have made clear that from 2012-13, funding for teaching will be rebalanced away from the HEFCE teaching grant and towards graduate contributions so that the sector is more responsive to the choices of students.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much money from the public purse was spent on higher education in *(a)* England, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Great Yarmouth constituency in each year from January 2005 to January 2010. [24679]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold a consistent data set on which to give a global answer for the whole of higher education (HE) spend. We do have information covering the three main elements of Government funding to HE.

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) grants

Total HEFCE Grant

Financial year	*£000*
2005-06	6,697,186
2006-07	7,014,360
2007-08	7,413,454
2008-09	7,506,778
2009-10	7,955,120

Source:

HEFCE Annual Reports

The two HEFCE-funded institutions in Norfolk received the following grant allocations:

University of East Anglia

Financial year	*£*
2005-06	49,474,012
2006-07	69,528,537
2007-08	79,034,255
2008-09	78,837,381
2009-10	91,385,784
2010-11	76,214,158

Norwich University College of the Arts

Financial year	*£*
2005-06	4,809,560
2006-07	5,927,793
2007-08	5,877,418

Norwich University College of the Arts

Financial year	*£*
2008-09	5,826,451
2009-10	8,224,807
2010-11	5,979,659

There are no directly HEFCE-funded institutions in Great Yarmouth constituency. HEFCE cannot identify funding for indirectly-funded further education colleges separately. The amount of funding they receive will depend on locally-negotiated agreements with partner higher education institutions (HEIs).

Science and research

The following table gives spend on science and research spend through research councils to HEIs. One HEI in Norfolk is eligible for this funding. It does not include research spend by other Government Departments or research funding awarded by HEFCE which is included in the above figures. No expenditure can be identified as spent in Great Yarmouth constituency.

Financial year	*University of East Anglia*	*£000 UK*
2004-05	13,012	919,739
2005-06	14,334	1,064,418
2006-07	14,964	1,151,979
2007-08	15,734	1,358,179
2008-09	16,984	1,531,128

Student Support Paid[1] England and Norfolk

Academic year	*England*	*£m Norfolk*
2004/05	2,577.7	29.7
2005/06	2,835.7	33.0
2006/07	4,057.0	47.3
2007/08	4,931.4	57.5
2008/09	5,930.8	70.5

Source:
Student Loans Company.

Student support spend figures include the cash value of loans paid. This does not represent the long-term cost to public funds as the majority of loans will be repaid. Complete figures are not yet available after academic year 2008/09. Robust student support figures are not available at constituency level.

[1] Loans, grants and allowances paid to students domiciled in England and studying in the UK. Excludes the tuition fee grants phased out after 2005/06 and part-time fee grants. Includes part-time course grants.

Met Office

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the merits of the Met Office competing with the private sector for commercial contracts. [25283]

Mr Robathan: I have been asked to reply.

The Met Office competes with the private sector for commercial contracts outside of the core National Meteorological Services.

This has been considered in previous reviews and will be reassessed as part of a review of the Met Office. This will report on its findings by the end of March 2011.

Overseas Students: Scholarships

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans the Government has for the funding of the Fulbright Scholarship Programme. [24769]

Mr Willetts: We are still working our way through the detail of the spending review and are not yet in a position to confirm the level of funding for the Fulbright Scholarship Programme from 2011 onwards.

We are very committed to our relationship with the United States and recognise the importance of the Fulbright Scholarship Programme. We will communicate the outcome of the funding settlement as soon as we are able.

Post Offices

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the payment of *(a)* rent for council housing and *(b)* council tax through the Post Office network. [25297]

Mr Davey: On 9 November this Government published the policy statement 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age'. This sets out the Government's future plans for the Post Office, and was clear that we view the Post Office network as ideally suited to act as a front office for government for both local and central Government.

Post Office Ltd provides bill payment facilities for around 370 local authorities, with the overwhelming majority covering council tax or rent payments.

A pilot bringing together Sheffield city council, Post Office Ltd and the National Federation of SubPostmasters, will look at making better use of the Post Office network in the delivery of public sector services.

Postal Services: Leeds

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects Royal Mail to have delivered the backlog of undelivered mail in the Leeds area. [25779]

Mr Davey: Delivery of mail is an operational matter for the Royal Mail.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Science and Technology Facilities Council: Finance

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which overseas facilities are part-funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council; and how much funding was allocated to each of those facilities in each of the last five financial years. [25252]

Mr Willetts: The following table shows how much the Science and Technology Facilities Council has contributed to funding overseas facilities through international collaboration agreements:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million* *2009-10*
European Space Agency	54.2	59.2	67.1	83.9	98.3
European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)	79.1	78.3	77.8	80.1	86.8
European Southern Observatory	32.9	18.1	19.4	25.8	28.3
Institut Laue Langevin	15.3	13.2	12.7	16.6	17.0
European Synchrotron Radiation Facility	6.6	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.4
Anglo-Australian Telescope	1.9	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.4
European Incoherent Radiation Facility	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
European Science Foundation	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Gemini	3.5	7.8	3.6	4.4	4.6

Note:

The 2009-10 figures are provisional and the final position will be contained in the STFC audited accounts which will be published shortly.

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff are employed by UK Trade and Investment in each location in each English region. [25414]

Mr Davey: UKTI is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments—the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

In UKTI's trade delivery network in nine English regions, there are 364 people deployed to deliver UKTI services. Those people are mainly employed by private sector organisations and are employed for their business knowledge and experience. There are also some Government staff on placement with those organisations. In addition, UKTI has 54 people, comprising BIS and Government office staff, leading UKTI's trade delivery activity in the English regions.

The breakdown of the total number of 418 people working on UKTI activity in each English region is as follows:

	Number
East of England	42
East Midlands	42
North East	34
North West	46
South East	61
South West	43
West Midlands	57
Yorks and Humber	46
London	47

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health's contribution on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 902, on termination of pregnancy, what steps his Department is undertaking to put in place informed consent, appropriate counselling and support for women before an abortion takes place. [25176]

Anne Milton: In accordance with Government policy and good practice guidelines, women requesting an abortion should already be fully informed of the pregnancy choices available to them, including alternatives to abortion such as keeping the pregnancy or adoption.

Abortion service providers should adopt the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists recommendations contained in 'The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion' (2004). This guidance states that all women considering abortion, after discussion with a clinician, should be given written information on procedures, including risks and complications, to ensure that they are able to give informed consent. Counselling should be offered to women who request or who need additional support in the decision-making process, as well as to young women under 16 years of age.

Blood: Contamination

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department's review of the recommendations of the Archer inquiry into the supply of contaminated blood in NHS facilities will be concluded; and when he plans to announce its findings. [25604]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement given on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

Dementia

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department disbursed from the central programme budget on dementia in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [24434]

Paul Burstow: A total of £8,377,947.32 was spent from the Department's programme budget on dementia related work in 2009-10, and £5,380,094 has so far been spent from the budget in 2010-11.

Departmental Services: Post Office

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24928]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not have a contract with Post Office Ltd. or Royal Mail but has a trading agreement in place with Royal Mail to deliver a number of postal services. The amount of expenditure against this agreement is as follows:

	£
2004-05	356,959
2005-06	252,278
2006-07	191,530
2007-08	170,608
2008-09	138,416
2009-10	144,422

We do not hold the information for 1997-98 as during this period accounting information was not held centrally.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services of his Department have been the subject of a contract awarded in a tender process in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid since 1997-98. [24930]

Mr Simon Burns: From July 2008 to the present, the Department's financial database, Business Management System (BMS), shows that no contracts were let to Post Office Ltd. Prior to the introduction of BMS in July 2008, information about contracts held by the Department was not gathered centrally.

Diabetes: Counselling

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding he expects each primary care trust to allocate for counselling and psychological treatment for people with Type 1 diabetes in 2011-12; [25367]

(2) how many patients under the age of 18 years with Type 1 diabetes received counselling or psychological treatment in relation to their Type 1 diabetes in the latest period for which figures are available. [25368]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold information on the number of patients under the age of 18 who have received counselling or psychological treatment in relation to their Type 1 diabetes. The Department also does not hold information on the future funding we expect each primary care trusts to allocate for diabetes services.

It is for national health service organisations to determine the needs of their local population and to commission emotional and psychological support services to meet these needs using their resources appropriately.

Diabetes: Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the National Diabetes Audit, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the *(a)* level of glucose control problems and *(b)* risk of stroke and heart disease amongst people with diabetes. [25082]

Paul Burstow: Diabetes is in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), part of the general practitioner (GP) contract, which provides additional reward to GP practices for how well they care for patients based on performance against a number of agreed indicators. There are a range of indicators for diabetes which are key in the risk management for complications of the condition.

In order to qualify for these incentives, GPs are required to record all patients aged 17 years and over with diabetes on a practice register and to undertake a series of tests on an annual basis to help assess and manage the risk of complications of diabetes including stroke and heart disease.

The QOF indicators for diabetes are in line with recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) which lists a series of nine key tests and measures that are helpful in monitoring and managing the condition of a person with diabetes. The tests include measuring blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol and making feet checks, and are important in helping to reduce the risk of complications such as stroke and heart disease. We would expect GPs to use the NICE guidance on diabetes to assist them in safely managing individualised blood glucose level in people with diabetes.

Drugs: Misuse

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions relating to overdoses of illegal drugs there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* Brighton and Hove in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [25105]

Anne Milton: Data on the number of hospital admissions relating to overdoses of illegal drugs are not collected centrally. Such data as are available are finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis code indicates poisoning by an illegal substance and are shown in the following table.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England	10,278	10,440	11,574	11,504	12,117
Primary care trusts covering the Sussex area	2,03[1]	2,96[1]	3,28[1]	3,59[1]	3,01[1]
Brighton and Hove	59	119	117	131	90

Notes:
1. The Sussex county boundary does not match exactly with boundaries of the primary care trusts covering Sussex, therefore these figures should be treated as approximations of the total for Sussex.
2. Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes and do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
3. Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
Illegal Drugs defined by ICD-10 codes:
T40.0 Poisoning by opium
T40.1 Poisoning by heroin
T40.2 Poisoning by other opioids
T40.3 Poisoning by methadone
T40.4 Poisoning by other synthetic narcotics
T40.5 Poisoning by cocaine
T40.6 Poisoning by other and unspecified narcotics
T40.7 Poisoning by cannabis (derivatives)
T40.8 Poisoning by lysergide (LSD)
T40.9 Poisoning by other and unspecified psychodysleptics (hallucinogens)
T41.2 Poisoning by other and unspecified anaesthetics (this includes Ketamine)
T43.6 Poisoning by psychostimulants with abuse potential (this includes Ecstasy)

4. Ungrossed data
Ungrossed data (ie not adjusted for shortfalls).
5. Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he has allocated for drug treatment services in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Coventry in each of the next five years. [24861]

Anne Milton: A range of different funding streams funds drug treatment services. The main component is central Government funding known as the pooled treatment budget (PTB) which is held by the Department. This includes both the adult pooled treatment budget (£381.3 million) and the young peoples pooled treatment budget for substance misuse treatment (£25.4 million). £45.4 million is also allocated by the Department for prison drug treatment.

In 2010-11 the pooled treatment budget was £406.7 million. This is in addition to an estimated £200 million spent by local partners, including the primary care trusts. Coventry was allocated £2,471,950 central funding for the adult pooled treatment budget and £158,233 for young peoples' substance misuse treatment.

Central Government funding allocations for drug treatment in the next five years are yet to be agreed.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people commenced, but did not complete successfully a treatment programme for drug addiction in each of the last five years. [24863]

Anne Milton: The report 'Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) 1 April 2009-31 March 2010', published by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA), contains data on the number of people recorded as 'treatment incomplete' for the last five years.

A study published by the NTA in September 2010 ('A Long term study of outcomes of drug users leaving treatment—NTA 2010') showed that, over a four-year period, 43% of cases which were originally categorised as 'treatment incomplete' did not return either to treatment or to drug interventions in the criminal justice system. Copies of both reports have been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that more patients can see their own doctors out of hours. [24652]

Mr Simon Burns: As set out in the White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, we are committed to developing a coherent 24 hours a day, seven days a week urgent care service in every area of England, which will incorporate general practitioner (GP) out-of-hours services. The Government are committed to putting GPs in charge of commissioning urgent care services including out-of-hours care and we believe that empowering GPs and other health professionals in this way will achieve better and more patient-focused services.

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department collects on the duration of patient waiting times for out-of-hours services. [24653]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information centrally on the duration of patient waiting times for out-of-hours services. Out-of-hours providers are required to provide clinical assessments and, where necessary, face-to-face consultations within certain time limits in line with the National Quality Requirements in the Delivery of Out-of-Hours Services, primary care trusts will hold data on compliance with these, although this may not include average waiting times data. My hon. Friend may wish to contact each primary care trust for this information.

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices in each primary care trust area offer their patients out-of-hours care from doctors within the practice. [24655]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. My hon. Friend may wish to contact each primary care trust for this information.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his Department contacting all GP practices *(a)* by letter and *(b)* by email (i) on the last occasion on which it did so and (ii) in the latest year for which figures are available. [24828]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no standard way to cost the drafting, clearance and issue of communications.

It would be in exceptional circumstances only that the Department would contact practices direct by email or by letter. Communications to any given staff group would be issued in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible. For general practitioner (GP) practices, the Department's usual policy is to disseminate information by regular electronic communications, such as the monthly GP Bulletin, which are placed on the Department's website.

General Practitioners: Suffolk

Mr Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were seen by out-of-hours services in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* South Suffolk constituency in each of the last five years. [24654]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, my hon. Friend may wish to contact the Suffolk Primary Care Trust direct for more information.

Health Services: Carers

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require primary care trusts to *(a)* promote and safeguard the health and welfare of carers and *(b)* ensure that effective procedures exist to identify patients who are carers; and if he will make a statement. [24873]

Paul Burstow: We are making available over £400 million additional money over the next four years to enable primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local government to support carers with breaks.

We do not believe that a legislative approach is the way to proceed as this would place additional burdens on PCTs, on general practitioners (GPs) and on practice staff who should in any case be supporting carers in the light of existing good practice.

We do believe that GPs have a vital role to play in the early identification and support of carers. This is why we are investing in face-to-face training and e-learning for GPs and their staff to make them more aware of the needs carers may have.

Health Services: Children

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary care trust baseline funding will include an allocation for disabled children's services in 2011-12. [24963]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently makes revenue allocations direct to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of a national weighted capitation formula which is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources. The components of the formula are used to weight each PCT's population according to their relative need (age and additional need) for healthcare and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (the market forces factor).

PCT revenue allocations are not broken down by policy or service area. Once allocated, it is for PCTs to commission the services they require to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of both local and national priorities.

Further details about PCT revenue allocations post 2010-11 will be announced in December 2010.

Health: Males

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of and mortality rate from cancer among men. [25249]

Paul Burstow: Lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, the harmful use of alcohol, drug misuse, poor diet and nutrition, being overweight and physical inactivity are acknowledged risk factors for a number of diseases in men, including cancer. Later this year, we will publish a Public Health White Paper setting out details of our strategy for improving public health and reducing the risk factors associated with developing conditions such as cancer.

We know that the earlier a cancer is detected, the sooner treatment can begin and the better the outcome is likely to be. Screening programmes and cancer awareness initiatives are key to achieving this. The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (NHSBCSP) is currently being extended to men and women aged 70 to 75, and those over the age of 75 will be able to self-refer every two years. Last month, we announced the introduction of a new screening technology for the NHSBCSP: flexible sigmoidoscopy. This can detect abnormalities before they become cancer, as well has helping to detect cancer early. Experts estimate this technology will save around 3,000 lives a year. £60 million has been provided for a four-year roll out and, subject to the approval of the UK National Screening Committee, pilots will begin next spring.

In September, we announced that £9 million would be provided through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative to support 59 local campaigns that will work to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of bowel, lung and breast cancers and to encourage early presentation at a general practitioner (GP) surgery. A further £1.75 million will be provided to pilot activity in two regions to test the viability of a possible national signs and symptoms campaign on bowel cancer. In preparing these campaigns, we are considering how to impact on different groups in society, including how to influence men to present earlier at a GP surgery.

We are also undertaking a review of the Cancer Reform Strategy to ensure that we have the right strategy to deliver improved cancer outcomes, including reducing incidence and mortality. This review is examining how to achieve equality of access, experience and outcomes in different groups of society. We plan to publish the review in winter.

Herbal Medicine

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions natural or herbal remedies have been found to contain *(a)* heavy metals and *(b)* undeclared pharmaceutical substances in the last 10 years. [25008]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has arrangements in place through the Medicines Testing Scheme (MTS) for the analytical testing of medicines on the UK market.

MTS has reliable data in relation to this issue from 2005. From records held, the total numbers of products tested found to contain heavy metals or undeclared active pharmaceutical ingredients are four and 282 respectively. Testing of products in this sector is generally carried out where there is reason to believe there may be a problem, rather than on a random basis.

Examples of undeclared ingredients include corticosteroids, slimming agents and banned herbs. These figures combine products specifically marketed as herbal, natural or traditional as well as products which are typically marketed as such. MHRA does not keep records of which of these products made specific claims to be herbal or natural.

The MHRA will not necessarily arrange for testing of further samples in cases where specific unlicensed products have tested positive for adulterants and additional examples remain on the market unless such testing would advance public health protection or the appropriate regulatory action.

Hospital Beds

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the proportion of available NHS beds which were in single room accommodation in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002-03 and *(c)* 2009-10. [25351]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the precise format requested.

Since 2002-03, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on the percentage of available beds provided for patient use that are single bedrooms. These data show that in 2002-03, the proportion of single bedrooms was 22.6% of all available beds for patient use, and in 2009-10 it was 32.7 %.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Hospitals: Admissions

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 638W, on hospitals: admissions, who will decide whether a hospital re-admissions within 30 days of discharge is avoidable; and who will bear the cost of such an assessment. [25220]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department will implement the proposed policy that from 1 April 2011 hospital trusts will not receive further payment for avoidable readmissions within 30 days of discharge in a way that minimises the burden to the national health service. Further details of the policy will be announced later in the year.

Maternity Services

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born at the roadside during journeys in excess of 20 minutes from the mother's home to the relevant maternity unit in 2009-10. [25345]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected by the Department.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the merits of creating a unique identification key code for control of and access to patients health care records. [25726]

Mr Simon Burns: Our consultation 'Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution' sets out the Government's ambitions for information to improve health and adult social care. Among a wide range of issues, the consultation covers proposals for giving people greater control of their care records so as to enable them to take greater control of their care. We will consider the merits of all ideas and practical proposals that may contribute to that aim.

Existing national information technology systems and services are protected by the requirement that all users must have a smartcard. Smartcards are secure tokens that, together with a password, confirm the identity of staff and determine access rights to information.

Mental Health Services: Manpower

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many of the 3,600 extra therapists planned to be in place by 2010-11 under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme are in place; and if he will make a statement; [25684]

(2) how many patients were treated under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [25685]

Paul Burstow: By April 2011, 3,650 new therapy workers will be in place in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. In addition, more than 1,000 existing therapists have been given some additional training. The programme has brought more than 72,500 people to recovery so far and more than 13,000 people treated have come off sick pay and benefits.

In the last two quarters of 2008-09, 43,792 patients entered treatment, with 181,947 in 2009-10 and 183,131 in the first two quarters of 2010-11. The programme is on track to see 900,000 people in its first three years, which have been in line with the academic years of the universities providing the training.

Mental Health Services: Regulation

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the regulation of hypnosis and psychotherapy services. [25202]

Anne Milton: There have been no recent discussions with external organisations specifically with regards to the regulation of hypnosis and psychotherapy services. The Government are considering their overall strategy in relation to professional regulation for health and social care workers, in the light of written representations from interested parties.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of stem cell transplants in the treatment of patients with multiple sclerosis. [25154]

Anne Milton: The Department is not aware of any proven treatment for multiple sclerosis incorporating stem cell transplants.

National Specialised Services Advisory Group

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how often the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services will be required to review its decisions on treatments and services for specialised commissioning. [25404]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Group for National Specialised Services will regularly review its recommendations on highly specialised services and treatments that are commissioned nationally, usually every five years.

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the relationship between the Cancer Drugs Fund and his Department's new Advisory Group for National Specialised Services. [25405]

Paul Burstow: Plans for the Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011 are currently subject to consultation, but it is not our intention that the fund should be used for drugs that form part of a service designated for specialised commissioning following advice from the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services.

NHS: Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department encourages NHS organisations to provide food of domestic origin. [25549]

Mr Simon Burns: Under public sector procurement rules, the national health service is prohibited from placing a geographical restriction on the origin of food in any food procurement exercise.

Some 60% of food ingredients supplied to the NHS is procured under contracts negotiated at a national level by NHS Supply Chain and the Department encourages NHS organisations to utilise these contracts where this helps them realise best value. In 2008-09, 64.5% of food ingredients provided through NHS Supply Chain contracts was grown or reared in the United Kingdom.

The Department issued guidance to the NHS on the procurement of sustainable food in April 2009 in the document, "Sustainable Food: A Guide for Hospitals". This guidance advises food procurers how they can take account of sustainability, seasonal and local sourcing issues, in line with public sector procurement rules.

A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Leasing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 332W, on NHS leasing, how much the NHS spent on the rental of each type of equipment in the last three years. [25375]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS: Local Government

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings he has had with local authorities to discuss the Health White Paper. [25352]

Paul Burstow: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and ministerial colleagues have met with local authority representatives, including local authority chief executives and directors of adult's and children's social services, at a number of events held over the summer to hear from key partners about the proposals set out in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS".

NHS: Voluntary Organisations

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of *(a)* voluntary partnerships with industry and *(b)* regulation in reducing the incidence of (i) obesity, (ii) alcohol abuse and (iii) tobacco smoking; [24825]

(2) what plans he has to reduce the incidence of *(a)* obesity and *(b)* alcohol abuse; and what account he plans to take of the views of industry representatives in formulating his Department's policy in these areas. [24827]

Anne Milton: The forthcoming public health white paper will set out the Government's strategy for improving the public's health, including tackling the challenges of smoking, obesity and alcohol misuse. Consultation with stakeholders, including industry representatives, is an important part of the formulation Government policy and it will continue as normal.

The Public Health Responsibility Deal brings industry, the retail sector, the voluntary sector, non governmental organisations and local government together in a forum to consider and agree on a voluntary basis the actions that they will take to support the Government's public health ambitions.

Government engagement with the tobacco industry on public health matters is governed by Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and its supporting guidelines. The guidelines specifically state that meetings with the industry or its proxies should be take place only when strictly necessary.

There is a role for regulation to achieve health improvement. For example, on alcohol, the Government have already set out their intention to review the Licensing Act and implement a ban on below cost sales and on tobacco, legislation to stop tobacco sales from vending machines is due to come into effect on 1 October 2011.

Nurses: Vacancies

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurse posts were vacant on 1 October 2010. [25348]

Anne Milton: The numbers of specialist nurse posts that were vacant on 1 October 2010 is not collected by the Department.

However, the NHS Information Centre for health and social care publish the NHS Vacancy Survey in England as at 31 March on a yearly basis. The following tables detail the number of qualified specialist nursing posts split by strategic health authority as at 31 March 2009, which is the most recent data available.

NHS Information centre for health and social care vacancies survey March 2009: vacancies by NHS strategic health authority area for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff

	Total vacancy numbers and rates (percentage)					
	Total qualified nurses	*Acute, elderly and general care*	*Paediatrics*	*Community learning disabilities*	*Other learning disabilities*	*Community psychiatry*
Total vacancy rates						
England	3.1	3.0	2.8	1.5	1.8	2.6
North East Strategic Health Authority area	1.0	0.8	0.4	1.6	0.0	0.8
North West Strategic Health Authority area	2.2	1.6	3.0	1.8	1.1	2.8
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.1	2.8
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	2.8	2.6	1.2	0.9	1.6	2.1
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	2.3	2.5	2.3	0.8	0.4	1.1
East Of England Strategic Health Authority area	4.1	3.9	4.2	2.3	4.8	3.1
London Strategic Health Authority area	5.1	5.2	4.6	1.1	1.3	4.9
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	2.9	3.1	2.8	0.5	0.6	1.4
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	2.9	2.8	1.7	3.1	9.1	4.3
South West Strategic Health Authority area	2.6	2.4	1.5	0.0	1.2	2.5
Special Health Authorities and Other Statutory Bodies	5.3	6.2	—	—	—	—

	Other psychiatry	*Midwives*	*District nurses*	*Health visitors*	*Qualified school nurses*	*Other qualified nurses*
Total vacancy rates						
England	2.7	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.3
North East Strategic Health Authority area	1.0	0.1	1.8	0.7	0.0	2.3
North West Strategic Health Authority area	3.7	1.0	2.2	3.0	2.7	3.5
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	3.1	3.0	4.6	3.0	2.7	5.5
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	0.9	3.8	4.2	2.8	4.3	5.2
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	0.5	1.2	1.7	1.8	3.4	4.5
East Of England Strategic Health Authority area	2.7	5.4	2.1	3.0	3.5	7.0
London Strategic Health Authority area	5.0	5.3	4.0	4.3	8.1	4.8
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	0.7	4.6	2.5	4.9	0.7	3.0
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	3.2	2.3	3.6	3.5	4.1	2.2
South West Strategic Health Authority area	1.4	5.8	3.9	2.2	1.2	3.5
Special Health Authorities and Other Statutory Bodies	—	—	—	—	—	4.7

Total vacancy numbers and rates (percentage)

	Total qualified nurses	*Acute, elderly and general care*	*Paediatrics*	*Community learning disabilities*	*Other learning disabilities*	*Community psychiatry*
Total vacancy numbers						
England	10,014	5,331	464	40	64	406
North East Strategic Health Authority area	188	84	4	4	—	8
North West Strategic Health Authority area	1,102	420	82	7	5	71
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	1,068	501	43	6	5	40
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	669	328	12	2	6	30
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	788	457	44	3	2	20
East Of England Strategic Health Authority area	1,215	629	44	9	16	42
London Strategic Health Authority area	2,833	1,715	174	3	2	79
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	635	368	23	1	2	17
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	617	349	19	5	22	55
South West Strategic Health Authority area	809	440	18	—	3	43
Special Health Authorities and Other Statutory Bodies	91	43	—	—	—	—

	Other psychiatry	*Midwives*	*District nurses*	*Health visitors*	*Qualified school nurses*	*Other qualified nurses*
Total vacancy numbers						
England	729	693	260	269	95	1,663
North East Strategic Health Authority area	20	1	8	4	—	55
North West Strategic Health Authority area	158	30	44	45	15	225
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	87	60	35	31	8	252
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	22	53	24	20	10	161
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	14	26	16	18	13	176
East Of England Strategic Health Authority area	65	102	19	25	8	256
London Strategic Health Authority area	274	211	56	58	32	229
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	12	67	15	30	1	98
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	49	31	15	20	5	48
South West Strategic Health Authority area	28	11	28	19	2	116
Special Health Authorities and Other Statutory Bodies	—	—	—	—	—	48

Notes:

1. Total vacancy rates are vacancies expressed as a percentage of total vacancies plus staff in post from the previous September non—medical workforce census (full time equivalent).
2. A vacancy is defined as one which employers are actively trying to fill as at 31 March.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Vacancy Survey

Prescription Drugs: Imports

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which bodies are responsible for enforcing legal requirements in respect of the import of prescription drugs; and whether he plans to review legislation in this area. [25060]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) an Executive agency of the Department, regulates medicines for human use in the United Kingdom through the Medicines Act 1968 and other supporting regulations.

Offences under medicines legislation are criminal. The MHRA has powers to take action against manufacturers, which includes the activity of import from a third country (non European economic area member state) and distributors that fail to meet the provisions of medicines legislation and appropriate standards. The MHRA will take regulatory action where breaches are identified. This may take the form of revoking licences or the instigation of criminal proceedings and bring a criminal prosecution if and when necessary.

The MHRA completed its last review of the licensing arrangements for pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesale distributors of medicines for human use in October 2005.

A further review of the supply chain of medicines for human use in the UK is currently being conducted. This further review will take account of the outcome of the European Commission's own proposal for preventing counterfeit medicines entering the supply chain.

If the prescription medicine for importation is also a controlled drug, importers also require a licence from the Home Office, under misuse of drugs legislation.

Respiratory Disease: Health Services

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether respiratory disease will be included as an improvement area in the NHS outcomes framework. [25030]

Mr Simon Burns: We are developing an NHS outcomes framework, which will measure the overall progress of the national health service in delivering better health outcomes for patients. The Department is currently analysing responses to the recent consultation, and will be publishing a full consultation response and the first NHS outcomes framework in due course.

Sheffield Children's Hospital: Tariff

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on Sheffield Children's Hospital of the implementation of his Department's proposal to reduce the tariff for specialist children's services. [24794]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is engaging constructively with the specialist children's hospitals to understand the impact of the proposed tariff for 2011-12 and the costs incurred in providing specialist children's services. The outcome of this work will help inform the tariff for 2011-12 and beyond.

Social Services: Transport

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of social care providers receive funding for transport as part of individual service users in long-stay homes care packages. [25234]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally. Local councils will contract with providers of care according to the needs of individual service users. The details of these contracts are not collected centrally by the Department or the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Tobacco: Sales

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the findings of the recent report by the Institute of Economic Affairs on the tobacco display ban in Canada; and if he will make a statement. [25161]

Anne Milton: We are aware of the report by the Institute of Economic Affairs on the tobacco display ban in Canada. We are also aware of a number of other reports on the promotional role of tobacco displays, for example, Professor McNeil's reports evaluating the removal of tobacco promotional displays in Ireland on 1 July 2009 which were published on 19 November 2010.

Departmental officials consider carefully all the evidence made available to them on tobacco control.

Winter: Health Services

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to provide for public health responses to winter weather in an addition to the existing NHS winter planning system. [24986]

Anne Milton: There is substantial planning in England before and during the winter season to protect the public's health.

Effective planning is dependent on joint partnerships with local government, the local civil society, and the national health service. The Department also works with the Met Office on winter cold weather warning systems and a respiratory disease warning system for those working with vulnerable people.

We also routinely provide a range of public information for people and professionals through funding the 'Keep Warm Keep Well' initiative.

As part of our further work on effective public health for winter, we are working with the Met Office and public health champions in a number of regions to improve the way we communicate with people in local settings to accurately predict cold weather and provide an appropriate and effective response.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 23 November 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital funding for her Department will be in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; and for each such year what the real-terms change will be compared to 2010-11. [24005]

Mrs May *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: The following table sets out the Home Office's resource and capital funding and the real-terms change compared to 2010-11.

	2010-11	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource non ring-fence (£ billion)	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.1	7.8
Resource ring-fence[1] (£ billion)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total resource budget (£ billion)	9.5	9.2	8.8	8.3	[2]8.1
Real-terms change compared to 2010-11 (percentage)	—	-5	-11	-18	23
Capital DEL (£ billion)	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
Real-terms change compared to 2010-11 (percentage)	—	-41	-42	-59	-49

[1] The headline resource figures in the spending review announcement excluded a technical accounting element of Department's budgets referred to as the resource ring-fence that mostly covers costs for depreciation. For completeness both the headline resource numbers and resource ring-fence figures have been included in the table.

[2] Total resource is higher than the sum of resource non ring-fence and resource ring-fence due to rounding to one decimal point.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who have been convicted and imprisoned for offences relating to human trafficking were deported to their country of origin in the last five years. [25660]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 November 2010]*: Between January 2008 and June 2010, the UK Border Agency has removed or deported approximately 13,350 foreign nationals referred by the Prison Service. Of these less than 1% had a recorded latest primary offence of human trafficking (or similar). This figure is based on internal management information and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change. Reliable data on offence types are not available prior to 2008.

Data on the total number of foreign nationals convicted or imprisoned for offences relating to human trafficking are held by the Ministry of Justice and not the UK Border Agency.

Human Trafficking

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the inter-departmental ministerial group on trafficking will next meet; and what will be discussed at that meeting. [25618]

Damian Green: The Government recognise the importance of monitoring the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in the UK and our international obligations.

A date is being sought for the next meeting of the inter-departmental ministerial group in the near future. Discussions at the group will reflect ongoing developments in trafficking policy.

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish her Department's strategy on human trafficking. [25730]

Damian Green: We plan to publish the strategy on tackling human trafficking in spring 2011 alongside the strategy on organised crime.

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK Human Trafficking Centre has a business plan. [25798]

Damian Green: The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) became part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on 1 April 2010.

All of SOCA's activities, including on human trafficking, are covered in its annual plan which is published at the start of each financial year.

Illegal Immigrants

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many raids for immigration purposes have been conducted *(a)* in total and *(b)* between the hours of 3.00 am and 7.00 am in each of the last 24 months. [25396]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 November 2010]*: The following table shows the total number of enforcement visits to business premises and private addresses conducted by the UK Border Agency in each month from November 2008 to October 2010, the number of those visits conducted between 03.00 hrs and 07.00 hrs, and the percentage of the overall number that the latter represent (the majority of such operations in fact take place between 06.00 hrs and 07.00 hrs). All data are sourced from management information tools and are not quality assured under national statistics protocols. The figures provided do not constitute part of national statistics and should be treated as provisional.

The timing of each enforcement visit will be dependent upon the type of visit to be conducted. For example, visits to private addresses will not normally be conducted either very late at night or very early in the morning; however, visits to business premises are approached with more flexibility. All visits are subject to prior risk assessment and required to be proportionate to the legitimate aims of the UK Border Agency's operations.

Month	*(a) All visits*	*(b) Visits between 03.00 and 07.00*	*%*
November 2008	1,084	343	32
December 2008	778	213	27
January 2009	1,101	368	33
February 2009	1,020	330	32
March 2009	1,125	296	26
April 2009	668	204	31
May 2009	747	230	31
June 2009	915	263	29
July 2009	947	313	33
August 2009	878	287	33
September 2009	1,057	361	34
October 2009	1,119	459	41
November 2009	1,217	470	39
December 2009	843	313	37
January 2010	1,067	405	38
February 2010	1,172	428	37
March 2010	1,254	514	41
April 2010	892	330	37
May 2010	1,143	455	40
June 2010	1,221	461	38
July 2010	1,210	407	34
August 2010	1,219	438	36
September 2010	1,351	465	34
October 2010	1,266	471	37
Totals	25,294	8,824	35

Notes:

1. All data are sourced from management information tools and are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

2. The timing of each enforcement visit will be dependent upon the type of visit to be conducted. For example, visits to private addresses will not normally be conducted either very late at night or very early in the morning; however, visits to business premises are approached with more flexibility. All visits are subject to prior risk assessment and required to be proportionate to the legitimate aims of the UK Border Agency's operations.

Immigration Controls

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what dates Ministers in her Department have met representatives from the *(a)* CBI, *(b)* British Chambers of Commerce and *(c)* Federation of Small Businesses to discuss the Government's proposed immigration cap since 11 May 2010; [24603]

(2) on what dates Ministers in her Department have met the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss the Government's proposed immigration cap. [24604]

Mrs May *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* I met representatives from the CBI on 21 September 2010 and 10 November 2010, and the Minister for Immigration met a representative of the British Chambers of Commerce on 26 May 2010 to discuss our proposals for limiting non-EU economic migration. My officials have met the CBI, the British Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss these proposals.

I have met with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on several occasions to discuss proposals for limiting non-EU economic migration.

In addition to this, the Minister for Immigration has met with the Minister for Universities and Science to discuss these proposals on a number of occasions.

Marriage of Convenience

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the incidence of sham marriages being used as an opportunity for entry into the UK in the latest period for which figures are available; and what plans she has to reduce that incidence. [25678]

Damian Green: It is not possible to estimate the number of sham marriages taking place in the UK for the purpose of attempting to gain the right to live and work in the UK.

Civil Registrars are legally obligated under s24 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 to report any prospective marriages or civil partnerships they believe may be being contracted for the purposes of circumventing immigration control to the UK Border Agency (UKBA). UKBA holds data on the number of s24 reports of suspicious marriages made by civil registrars but these are allegations and not proof of a sham marriage. S24 reports also do not cover marriages taking place in the Anglican Church in England and Wales, where the clergy are not under the same legal obligation, or those identified by UK Border Agency case workers.

To the end of September 2010 665 s24 reports have been received in UKBA. This reflects an increase on the total 2009 figure of 561 but this increase reflects the raising of awareness among registrars that our work to tackle the problem has generated, rather than a rise in the number of sham marriages.

We are working closely with both the civil registration authorities and the Anglican Church in England and Wales who are all committed to helping us tackle the problem of sham marriage. We are providing training and awareness sessions and working to develop closer links between register offices and dioceses at a local level as early detection is key to preventing foreign nationals gaining an immigration advantage from a sham marriage.

Entering into a sham marriage does not automatically entitle a foreign national to the right to live and work in the UK and all couples must provide comprehensive evidence to UKBA that they are in a genuine and subsisting relationship for any leave to be granted. All couples are subject to the same robust case working processes and we are working to strengthen these further. UK Border Agency has the power to refuse to grant leave if it is suspected that a marriage has taken place solely for immigration purposes and we have the power to revoke leave granted as a result of a sham marriage.

Migration

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of progress since May 2010 towards her objective for reduction of net migration; and if she will make a statement. [23090]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to reducing net migration to the tens of thousands. On 28 June we launched a 12 week consultation with businesses and other interested sectors on our plans for implementing annual limits. At the same time, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary commissioned the independent

Migration Advisory Committee to advise the Government on the level at which the first annual limit should be set. We will announce the findings in due course.

We also introduced interim limits on 19 July to prevent a surge in applications, following the announcement of the limits consultation. This would have led to an increase in net migration, undermining the purpose of the limit. The limit included a very modest reduction in numbers, just 5% below the equivalent period in 2009-10.

In addition, we are reviewing other routes of non-EU migration (students, settlement, family etc) as action on these too will be needed, and we will be applying transitional measures to new EU accession states.

Police: Accountability

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there will be a requirement on candidates or parties taking part in the proposed elections for police commissioners to register with the Electoral Commission. [24647]

Mrs May *[holding answer 17 November 2010]*: We are in discussions with the Electoral Commission as part of the ongoing devèlopment of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections policy.

Police: Administration

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop forms were completed by Kent police in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* North Kent police area in each of the last five years. [25211]

Nick Herbert: Information on the specific number of forms filled in is not reported to the Home Office, but data on the number of stops and searches and stop and accounts reported to the Home Office by police forces are provided in the table.

The data reported to the Home Office are not broken down below police force area level, therefore information for Dartford constituency and North Kent police area is not available.

Stops and searches in Kent police force area, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Number

	Stop and account[1]	*Stop and search*[2]	*Total*
2004-05	—	11,821	11,821
2005-06	12,865	12,565	25,430
2006-07	14,200	14,186	28,386
2007-08	22,703	15,784	38,487
2008-09[3]	20,191	17,777	37,968

[1] Requirements to record stop and account came in on 1 April 2005-06.

[2] Includes stops and searches under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act and section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

[3] Data for stop and account for 2008-09 are provisional.

UK Border Agency: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 518, on UK Border Agency: Northern Ireland, how many such staff at each grade were employed in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and how many such staff were resident in Northern Ireland. [25899]

Damian Green: The number of staff at each grade, who were, or are, employed in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years is shown in the following table: these staff are all resident in Northern Ireland.

UK Border Agency staff in Northern Ireland

FTE

	31 March each year		
Grade	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Senior executive officer	2	2	3
Higher executive officer	5	6	12
Executive officer	24	24	30
Administrative officer	13	11	9
Ungraded inward secondment	0	1	1
Total all grades	44	44	55

Note:

The figures shown are full-time equivalent (FTE) civil servants and are grouped by the generic grade equivalent.

SCOTLAND

Banknotes

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will assess the merits of bringing forward proposals for a legal requirement for shops and businesses in England to accept Scottish banknotes. [24393]

Michael Moore: The right of certain Scottish and Northern Irish banks to issue banknotes was confirmed in part 6 of the Banking Act 2009. I am meeting experts from both the banking and the commercial sectors in order to investigate what practical steps may be taken to increase the recognition of Scottish notes throughout the United Kingdom, including among the makers of automated payment machines. This will stimulate a wider awareness throughout the UK of the designs and status of their notes.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Second Church Estates Commissioner for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to the Church Commissioners of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25979]

Tony Baldry: To the best of my knowledge all named day written questions to the Church Commissioners have been answered on or before the named day during 2009-10. There are no named day written questions still awaiting a response. No estimate has been made of the average cost to the Church Commissioners of answering named day written questions.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Second Church Estates Commissioner for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to the Church Commissioners of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25980]

Tony Baldry: To the best of my knowledge all written questions to the Church Commissioners during 2009-10 have been answered in no more than seven days. No estimate has been made of the average cost to the Church Commissioners of answering written questions. Since taking office as Second Church Estates Commissioner in June 2010 I have received 24 written and oral questions. My predecessor answered 120 written and oral questions for the period January 2009 until June 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information she has on the emissions of *(a)* particulates, *(b)* volatile organic compounds and *(c)* nitrogen oxide arising from the thermal treatment of biomass in the process of making it suitable for combustion. [25379]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold information on the emission of these pollutants from the treatment of biomass in the process of making it suitable for combustion.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports she has received on the incidence of blue haze arising from thermal treatment of biomass in the process of making it suitable for combustion within the UK. [25380]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is not aware of any reports on the incidence of blue haze arising from thermal treatment of biomass in the process of making it suitable for combustion within the UK.

Conservation Credit Scheme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Conservation Credit Scheme in respect of fishing for cod and whiting in the North Sea. [25911]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has been monitoring the operation of the Conservation Credit Scheme with considerable interest, since its introduction. It has made real progress in terms of joint working between industry, Government, scientists and environmental interests. Officials from DEFRA are invited as observers. For the future, we will want to ensure that the arrangements deliver their conservation goals, while at the same time, continuing to assess how we might further develop this approach in other parts of the UK.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which organisations her Department has *(a)* made grants in 2010-11 and *(b)* allocated grants for (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13; and what the monetary value of each such grant is. [26111]

Richard Benyon: The information is as follows:

(a) Tables setting out the value of grants paid to date and to which organisations in 2010-11 will be placed in the House of Commons Library by the end of December.

(b) (i) The information in regard to allocated grants for 2010-11 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(ii) Following the spending review, my Department is currently considering budget allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value of grants awarded by her Department was in 2009-10; and how much she expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [26114]

Richard Benyon: Tables setting out the monetary value of grants awarded in 2009-10 will be placed in the House of Commons Library by the end of December.

The value of grants to be awarded in 2010-11 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Following the spending review, my Department is currently considering budget allocations for 2011-12.

Departmental Services: Post Office

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what services provided by her Department and its predecessors were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier; and what the monetary value was of each such contract in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available in each case. [24923]

Richard Benyon: The Department was formed in 2001. To identify information prior to this date would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department does not keep central or local records of where the provision of goods/services has been subject to a change of supplier. To identify such changes over the period since 1997-98 would incur disproportionate cost.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which services of her Department and its predecessors have been the subject of a contract awarded in a tender process in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid since 1997-98. [24924]

Richard Benyon: The Department was formed in 2001. The data requested of all unsuccessful bidders to tender and quotation processes are not held centrally or locally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dogs: Breeding

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will *(a)* promote a public education and awareness campaign concerning genetic health problems in pure-bred dogs and *(b)* publish her estimate of the cost to the public purse of dealing with consequential health problems in such dogs; and if she will make a statement. [22427]

Mr Paice: We have no current plans to promote a public education and awareness campaign concerning genetic health problems in pure-bred dogs. We will be looking to the recently created and independent Dog Advisory Council to consider how best to promote public awareness of genetic health problems in dogs.

I am not aware that genetic health problems in dogs generate significant costs to the public purse as most of the costs are met by individual owners.

Fencing: Suffolk

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of fencing contractors in Suffolk are licensed by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. [25460]

Mr Paice: This information is not available. The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) has responsibility for publishing a register of licensed gangmasters. This lists all gangmasters who have applied for and been granted a licence and is open to public view. The GLA does not collect information about the specific activity that a gangmaster may carry out within a particular sector.

Floods: Insurance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she received from the insurance industry on flood risk. [25226]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with the insurance industry on flood risk management. We continue to make progress on the current Statement of Principles between the Government and insurers on flood risk management.

At the Flood summit in September key representatives from the insurance industry, the National Flood Forum, the Environment Agency and local government agreed on a roadmap towards 2013, when the current Statement of Principles between the Government and insurers on flood risk management expires. It was agreed that flood insurance should remain widely available.

Three working groups will be now be formed to continue the dialogue on flood insurance and risk reduction and put in place a roadmap to take us beyond 2013.

Inland Waterways

Karen Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to ensure that the charitable body which succeeds British Waterways attracts sufficient funding to enable it to maintain and operate its waterways network to a fit-for-purpose standard; and if she will make a statement. [25034]

Richard Benyon: Making British Waterways a charitable company gives users and communities more responsibility for governance of the waterways, and new opportunities for growing income and volunteering, making efficiencies and forming supportive partnerships. The Government will also give the new charity the best start it can afford, with the transfer of the property portfolio and a long-term contract. The move should, therefore, improve the long-term financial sustainability of the waterways.

Local Authorities: Freedom of Information

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many separate requests for data from local authorities her Department made in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [25314]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not record this information centrally, and it would cost a disproportionate amount to collect it from across the Department. The Government are currently reviewing the data requirements placed on local authorities with the aim of reducing them and making them transparent. This will result in a single comprehensive list of all the data that local government is expected to provide to central Government, including that required by DEFRA, from April 2011.

Mackerel

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an assessment of the effects of climate change on *(a)* sea temperature and *(b)* the movements of mackerel. [25238]

Richard Benyon: The last set of UK climate projections, published in summer 2009, provided a wide range of information on the effects of future climate change on the marine environment, including coastal waters and shelf seas. As well as sea temperature, the projections cover sea level rise, and changes in storm surges, offshore waves, salinity, and shelf currents:

http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/content/view/1969/500/

The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership, in which DEFRA is a partner, contributed to these projections and to the climate change chapter in Charting Progress 2, published in summer 2010

http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/

by UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy. The 'Ocean Processes' feeder report for Charting Progress 2 includes a detailed assessment of current observations of changing sea temperatures in UK waters.

The most recent report card from the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership, also published in summer 2010

http://www.mccip.org.uk/annual-report-card/2010-2011.aspx

provides the most comprehensive assessment of marine climate change impacts to date. One of the impacts that has been described in this report is the shifting distribution of mackerel. Fisheries scientists at CEFAS and Marine

Scotland have stated there is still much uncertainty around whether or not this is a transient phenomenon associated with observed cold seawater temperatures off Norway in the winter of 2009-10, whether this simply reflects a spreading out of the mackerel population to new areas because the mackerel stock is currently large and densely distributed, or whether it reflects a long-term shift in migration routes. The impact and consequences that such changes might have on the effectiveness of fishery closure areas and allocation of quotas between countries in the long-term also remain uncertain.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to secure a settlement between the UK, Iceland and the Faroe Islands on mackerel quotas. [25236]

Richard Benyon: Ministers and officials are working hard to help secure agreement on future management of North Atlantic mackerel. The Government have made strong representations, including to the EU Fisheries Commissioner, as well as to the Icelandic and Faroese Governments, to underline the importance of reaching agreement that safeguards the long-term sustainability of both the fish stock and our industry. DEFRA is working closely with industry and with colleagues in devolved Administrations to help find a way forward. Officials have been involved in two rounds of Coastal States talks and will be participating in further talks planned for 25 and 26 November.

Nature Conservation: Birds

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department is taking steps to improve the protection of endangered species of wild birds. [25005]

Richard Benyon: All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which implements the EC wild birds directive in Great Britain. This provides a powerful framework for the conservation of wild birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. In addition to this protection, raptor persecution is currently one of the UK's wildlife crime priorities.

A number of bird species are listed as priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and also under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This list sets out the species of principal importance in England for the purpose of conserving biodiversity and guides decision-makers such as public bodies. Agri-environment schemes also contribute to the conservation of wild birds by enabling farmers to provide suitable habitat and nesting areas for farmland birds.

Trade in endangered species of wild birds is controlled by the convention on international trade in endangered species, an international agreement between governments whose aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

The UK is a signatory to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and has played a key role in its development and implementation. This is one of the key agreements under the convention on migratory species to tackle threats faced by migratory waterbirds. The AEWA covers 255 species of waterbirds that are ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, with over 100 of these species regularly occurring in the UK.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the abolition of regional development agencies on the disbursement of grants to the anaerobic digestion industry. [25241]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will ensure that delivery arrangements for the Rural Development Programme for England continue to be in place following the abolition of the regional development agencies. This will minimise disruption for potential beneficiaries, and will be based on the Department taking a stronger national lead for the remainder of the programme period to 2013. Assistance for small-scale anaerobic digestion projects will continue to be eligible for support under the programme.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses. [25225]

Richard Benyon: The United Kingdom has not signed the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses. Since the time for signing has passed, the process now would be for accession rather than ratification.

The UK has no immediate plans to accede to the Convention.

PRIME MINISTER

Sergei Magnitsky

Mr MacShane: To ask the Prime Minister if he will discuss with the Government of Russia the death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky during his forthcoming visit to Moscow. [25265]

The Prime Minister: The Government remains very concerned by Mr Magnitsky's case. We are awaiting the conclusion of the official investigation into this case announced by President Medvedev in November 2009. A date for my visit to Moscow has not yet been set.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Tobacco: Smuggling

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* the government of the Republic of Ireland on (i) tobacco smuggling and (ii) links between tobacco smuggling and terrorist groups; and if he will make a statement. [25223]

Mr Paterson: Tobacco smuggling falls under the responsibilities of the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland. Operational responsibility for the detection and seizure of illicit cigarettes and tobacco lies with HMRC and UKBA in partnership with the PSNI who also work in conjunction with An Gardaí Síochána and other agencies on both sides of the border on tackling this issue.

The Secretary of State meets regularly with the Northern Ireland Justice Minister and with his counterparts in the Republic of Ireland to discuss as necessary matters relating to security in Northern Ireland.

EDUCATION

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when and by what means his Department informed Leicester city council that it was required to make savings of up to 40 per cent. in respect of its Building Schools for the Future programme funding. [20444]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 November 2010]*: The Department for Education has asked Partnerships for Schools (PfS) to work with local authorities and private sector companies to identify savings in projects which are continuing within the Building Schools for the Future programme. On Thursday 21 October, PfS telephoned a number of local authorities, including the city of Leicester, about the identification of savings. This follows the Secretary of State's announcement of 5 July, in which, referring to ongoing BSF projects, he said that he would

> "continue to look at the scope for savings in all these projects."

We have not set a target for the level of savings to be realised for Leicester or for any other local authority There will be different options for each local authority as to how savings could be made. We will work through these options with local areas over coming weeks.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Telford

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether funding for the Building Schools for the Future programme project in Telford and Wrekin has been reduced since July 2010; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the funding profile for that project. [21229]

Mr Gibb: No changes have yet been made to the funding for Telford and Wrekin's Building Schools for the Future programme. However, we have asked local authorities and private sector companies to identify savings in projects which are continuing within the Building Schools for the Future programme. This follows the Secretary of State's announcement of 5 July, in which, referring to ongoing BSF projects, he said that he would

> "continue to look at the scope for savings in all these projects."

Any revisions to funding allocation models will not be finalised until we have worked with the local authorities to agree how their schemes can be taken forward to achieve best value for money.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Advertising

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on advertising the availability of education maintenance allowance between May 2005 and May 2010. [20678]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Tamworth with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Lewisham

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people resident in Lewisham, Deptford constituency have received the education maintenance allowance in each year since its inception; what the average value of the allowance was; and what expenditure his Department made on the provision of such allowances to residents of *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Lewisham in each such year. [21092]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the right hon. Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Free Schools: Greater London

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which organisations have expressed an interest in providing a free school in the London borough of Waltham Forest. [14559]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold, collect or receive expressions of interest about free schools. To date, three organisations have submitted proposals to establish free schools within the London borough of Waltham Forest.

Free Schools: Road Traffic

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure that plans for the establishment of free schools take local road traffic conditions into account. [20846]

Mr Gibb: The Department is working with the Department for Communities and Local Government which is currently consulting on changes to the planning system to make it easier for free schools to be set up in buildings with a range of existing uses. The consultation, which closes on 10 December, seeks views on transport and traffic conditions among other issues.

Free Schools: Teachers

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's policy is on authorising free schools to employ as *(a)* teachers and *(b)* head teachers people who do not hold an official teaching qualification or a national professional qualification for headship. [20741]

Mr Gibb: Innovation, diversity and flexibility are at the heart of the Free Schools policy. We want the dynamism that characterises the best independent schools to drive up standards in the State sector. In this spirit we will not be setting overly prescriptive requirements in relation to qualifications: instead we will expect business cases to demonstrate how Governing Bodies intend to guarantee the highest quality of teaching and leadership in their schools. Free Schools are legally Academies, and as in Academies generally head teachers are not required to hold the National Professional Qualification for Headship. No school will be allowed to proceed unless its proposals for quality teaching are soundly based. Ensuring each Free School's unique educational vision is translated into the classroom will require talented people with a diverse range of experience.

GCSE

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of pupils at secondary schools with *(a)* fewer than 800, *(b)* 800 to 1,000 and *(c)* more than 1,000 pupils attained five GCSEs, including English and mathematics at A* to C grades in each year since 2000; [17918]

(2) what proportion of pupils at *(a)* stand alone secondary schools and *(b)* secondary departments of all-through schools attained five GCSEs at A* to C grades in each year since 2000; [17919]

(3) what proportion of pupils at secondary schools with *(a)* fewer than 800 pupils, *(b)* 800 to 1,000 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,000 pupils attained five GCSEs at A* to C grades in each year since 2000. [18224]

Mr Gibb: In the tables, figures from 2000-04 have been based on pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year. Figures from 2005-10 have been based on pupils reaching the end of Key Stage 4.

The percentage of pupils achieving the equivalent of five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C is given in the following table:

Percentage

	School age ranges[1]		*Number of pupils on roll*		
	Stand-alone secondary schools	*All-through schools*	*0-799*	*800-1,000*	*1,001 +*
2000	47.7	42.5	43.3	50.5	51.9
2001	48.5	51.1	44.4	49.9	52.7
2002	50.1	52.4	46.0	51.9	53.9
2003	51.7	51.8	47.2	52.8	55.3
2004	52.6	50.6	48.3	53.1	56.1
2005	55.6	62.4	51.4	56.3	59.1
2006	57.9	59.6	52.3	58.9	61.6
2007	60.6	59.6	54.1	61.4	64.4
2008	65.0	61.3	56.9	66.3	68.7
2009	70.7	64.7	60.9	71.5	73.5
2010[2]	76.4	48.2	64.0	77.4	78.8

The percentage of pupils achieving the equivalent of five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and maths GCSEs is given in the following table:

Percentage

	School age ranges[1]		*Number of pupils on roll*		
	Stand-alone secondary schools	*All-through schools*	*0-799*	*800-1,000*	*1,001 +*
2000	38.0	40.2	35.4	41.6	41.7
2001	38.7	48.3	36.6	40.8	42.6
2002	40.1	49.8	38.0	42.7	43.6
2003	40.0	48.9	37.8	41.9	43.5
2004	40.9	47.3	38.8	42.3	44.3
2005	43.1	56.3	40.1	44.4	46.6
2006	44.5	51.6	39.7	45.5	48.0
2007	46.2	44.9	39.0	45.7	49.6
2008	48.6	38.3	38.7	46.9	51.8
2009	51.2	45.8	40.4	49.5	54.1
2010[2]	55.6	29.4	42.4	53.1	57.8

[1] Both all-through and stand-alone schools must have an upper age limit of 16-18. The lower limit of all-through schools must be 3-5 while that for stand-alone schools must be 11.

[2] The provisional figures for 2010 include accredited International GCSEs (iGCSE). In order to better capture the attainment of pupils in the Independent sector, iGCSEs that were not accredited at the beginning of the period of study but have since been accredited have been counted.

Source:

The Secondary School and College Performance Tables

GCSE: Standards

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools performed below the National Challenge threshold for English and mathematics GCSE results in 2010. [20045]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* This information will be published in the secondary school performance tables in January 2011.

Pockets of Deprivation: Finance

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding each local authority received through the Pockets of Deprivation element of the Dedicated Schools Grant in each year since 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [21423]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* £40.91 million was included in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for each year of the spending period of 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 for pockets of deprivation. The notional allocations for the local authorities who qualified for this funding can be found on the summary sheet of the final DSG allocations for 2008-09 which is available on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance

Schools: Buildings

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate his Department made of the number of modular buildings which were used as classrooms in *(a)* 1980 and *(b)* 1997; [17025]

(2) what estimate he made of the number of classrooms which were in use in *(a)* 1980 and *(b)* 1997. [17026]

Mr Gibb: No estimates have been made by the Department of the number of classrooms or the number of modular buildings used as classrooms in 1980 and 1997.

Schools: Discipline

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour; and what timetable he has set for the implementation of such a policy. [11971]

Mr Gibb: It is this Government's intention to give heads and teachers the powers they need to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour. In a statement to the House on 7 July I announced that we will take steps to strengthen teachers' powers to search pupils; clarify their powers to use force; and remove the requirement to give 24-hours written notice when giving pupils detentions. We will also give teachers the strongest possible protection from false accusations. I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 11WS. The full text of my statement can be viewed online at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100707/wmstext/100707m0001.htm

We will announce further proposals later this year and take forward any necessary primary legislation at the earliest opportunity.

Schools: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have been supported by Creative Partnership funding in each of the last three years. [20164]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

The Creative Partnership programme is run by Creativity Culture and Education (CCE) with funding from Arts Council England. CCE has provided data on the number of primary and secondary schools which have completed Creative Partnership projects in academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10 and the number currently working with Creative Partnerships for 2010/11, which is set out in the table:

Academic year	*Primary schools*	*Secondary schools*
2008/09	1,361	500
2009/10	1,415	488
2010/11 (to date)	1,368	450

Secondary Education

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the average contextual value added score has been for *(a)* stand alone secondary schools and *(b)* secondary departments in all-through schools in each year since 2000; [17917]

(2) what the contextual value added score is for secondary schools with *(a)* fewer than 800 pupils, *(b)* 800 to 1,000 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,000 pupils in each year since 2000. [18010]

Mr Gibb: Contextual value added was introduced into the Achievement and Attainment Tables in 2006 to replace the value added model. The following tables show the average contextual value added score for the years 2006 to 2009 for maintained mainstream schools. The number of schools used in the calculation is given in brackets.

	School age ranges[1]							
	Stand alone secondary schools				*All through schools (secondary department)*			
	CVA score	*Number*	*Lower 95% confidence limit*	*Upper 95% confidence limit*	*CVA score*	*Number*	*Lower 95% confidence limit*	*Upper 95% confidence limit*
2006	1000.0	(2,884)	999.8	1000.1	999.9	(4)	993.7	1006.0
2007	1000.7	(2,816)	1000.5	1000.9	996.4	(4)	990.3	1002.5
2008	1000.9	(2,865)	1000.7	1001.1	1000.1	(7)	995.8	1004.4
2009	1001.1	(2,847)	1000.9	1001.3	997.	(14)	994.1	1000.8

	Number of pupils on roll:							
	1-799				800-1,000			
	CVA score	Number	Lower 95% confidence limit	Upper 95% confidence limit	CVA score	Number	Lower 95% confidence limit	Upper 95% confidence limit
2006	1000.2	(802)	999.8	1000.6	999.4	(728)	999.0	999.7
2007	1001.6	(789)	1001.2	1002.0	1000.2	(704)	999.9	1000.6
2008	1001.1	(860)	1000.7	1001.4	1001.0	(718)	1000.7	1001.3
2009	1001.7	(865)	1001.3	1002.1	1001.2	(714)	1000.8	1001.6

	Number of pupils on role:			
	1,001 or more			
	CVA score	Number	Lower 95% confidence limit	Upper 95% confidence limit
2006	1000.6	(1,576)	1000.4	1000.8
2007	1000.8	(1,552)	1000.6	1001.0
2008	1001.0	(1,515)	1000.8	1001.2
2009	1001.0	(1,505)	1000.7	1001.2

[1] Both all-through and stand-alone schools must have an upper age limit of 16-18. The lower age limit of all-through schools must be 3-5 while that for stand-alone schools must be 11.

Note:

For contextual value Added scores it is standard practice to give the upper and lower confidence limits. If 1000 lies within the range of the confidence limits, the CVA score is not showing significantly positive or negative value added.

Source:

The Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables

Schools: Standards

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to provide support for underperforming schools. [20044]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]*: The forthcoming Schools White Paper will set out the detail of our approach to reducing underperformance in our school system. We believe that the way to secure sustainable improvement is to give responsibility to schools and for schools to learn from other schools. Our aim will be to challenge and support schools in a robust and clear manner. Central to our approach, especially in tackling the most significant areas of underperformance, will be our Academies programme, and schools working together to share best practice.

We have also allocated £110 million to establish an education endowment fund (EEF) designed to raise standards in underperforming schools. The EEF will distribute money to local authorities, academy sponsors, charities and other groups that bring forward innovative proposals to improve performance in our most challenging schools.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes across the UK; and whether he has had discussions with the devolved administrations on this matter. [25633]

Norman Baker: There are no immediate plans to introduce mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes across the UK. Concessionary travel is a devolved policy area so the arrangements in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland differ from those in England. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 contains a power to allow, through future regulations, for mutual recognition of bus passes across the UK. Regular discussions take place at official level with the devolved Administrations. Various technical and resource issues would need to be resolved before mutual recognition could be pursued.

Bus Services: Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to *(a)* undertake and *(b)* publish an equality impact assessment in relation to the change in the level of funding for the Bus Service Operators Grant. [22984]

Norman Baker: An equality impact assessment in relation to the change in the level of funding for the Bus Service Operators Grant has been undertaken and will be published on the Department's website by the end of November.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 702W, on bus services: finance, what the key assumptions are in respect of *(a)* fares and *(b)* the effect on the level of service of the reduction in Bus Service Operators Grants. [23724]

Norman Baker: We have used analysis published in recent impact assessments on the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) which suggests that removing BSOG in its entirety would have, on average, increased fares by around 7% and reduced service levels by around 7% outside London. After considering this analysis, the Government decided to limit reduction in BSOG to 20%.

To help estimate sub-national impacts we have used the Department's new National Bus Model. The key assumptions used in the model are in the main taken from the Transport Research Laboratory report 'The demand for public transport: a practical guide'. They include assumptions of how demand for bus travel changes in response to changes in bus fares, service levels, GDP and car ownership.

Crayford Station

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has received a new application for funding from Southeastern Railway to provide step-free access at Crayford Station. [24766]

Norman Baker: We have been unable to commission any bids for Access for All Small Schemes funding while the comprehensive spending review was ongoing, although we hope to have further funding available for access improvements in due course.

However, in response to a letter from me the managing director of Southeastern Railways has indicated his intension to install a lockable side gate and Oyster validator on Platform 2 which will allow Bexley council to upgrade the footpath linking the station to the roadway to provide step free access.

Cycling England: Cost-effectiveness

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has undertaken a cost-benefit assessment of Cycling England's programmes. [24457]

Norman Baker: Cycling England was established in 2005 with a remit to "Get More People Cycling, More Safely, More Often". Over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 Department for Transport (DfT) invested around £140 million in programmes to deliver this objective. Cycling England's role was to advise on how best to spend these funds and to oversee the delivery of the projects.

Analysis of results of the first three years of funding, of which DfT contributed £7.5 million, for the initial six Cycling Demonstration Towns has provided a benefit cost ratio in the range 2.6 to 3.5, and a 27% increase in cycle trips as shown by automatic cycle counters.

Current programmes that continue to the end of March 2011 are yet to be evaluated.

Freight: Grants

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the Freight Facilities Grant. [21319]

Mike Penning: The Freight Facilities Grant scheme remains suspended while the Department reviews its capital programme budgets following the settlement agreed in the comprehensive spending review. Further details on the future of the scheme will be made public shortly.

High Speed Rail Network

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to make capacity on the proposed high speed rail network available to rail freight. [23184]

Mr Philip Hammond: None. HS2 is proposed as a dedicated high speed passenger line. However, capacity released on existing lines could be used for additional freight and other services.

Southeastern Railway Franchise

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the application of a cap on fare rises on train services provided by Southeastern under its franchise agreement which enable a different rate of fare rises to that applied by other franchisees; and if he will make a statement. [25177]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* The Southeastern Franchise Agreement agreed by the last Government specified that from 2007-11, regulated fares on the network would be capped at RPI +3%. There are no plans to alter this requirement during 2011.

Next year will be the final one in which Southeastern has a different fares regime to most other parts of the network. From 2012, RPI+3 will become the standard formula for prices regulated by the Department for Transport, including Southeastern.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are used to determine the imposition of a 50 miles per hour speed limit on motorways. [24157]

Mike Penning: Current motorway standards do not necessitate permanent 50 mph speed limits. Some older motorways designed in the 1960s, and some motorways in urban areas, which do not meet the current visibility requirements or which have sub-standard geometric features, have had lower speed limits introduced appropriate to the visibility and geometry to improve safety. The principal criterion used to determine the speed limit is forward visibility.

National advice on setting temporary speed limits for road works is given in Traffic Signs Manual, chapter 8, section D3.7. This identifies appropriate speed limits based on the relative risk to road users posed by the barriers, cones etc which are used to provide protection to road workers. This risk is normally the same whether road workers are present or not and speed limits therefore need to be in place even when workers are not on-site. The Highways Agency produced additional advice in July 2007 (Chief Highways Engineer Memo 203/07) on how to apply temporary speed limits at road works using the risk based approach in chapter 8. This advice applies to the motorway network in England; the application of this advice on other motorways is the responsibility of the relevant highway authority.

Preston-Colne Railway Line

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the level of usage of the Preston-Colne rail line. [25908]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has not made a recent assessment of the passenger usage of the Preston to Colne line. It is for each train operator to undertake passenger counts on the routes it operates so train capacity can be best matched to passenger demand.

Railways: Complaints

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints he received on the way in which *(a)* East Coast Mainline, *(b)* Grand Central, *(c)* Northern Rail, and *(d)* Transpennine Express communicate with their customers in the latest period for which figures are available. [25531]

Mrs Villiers: For the most recent quarterly period the Department for Transport has received six complaints concerning East Coast Mainline, nil for Grand Central, five for Northern Rail and one for Transpennine Express, about the way in which the operators commutate with their customers.

Railways: Freight

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on effective criteria for assessing the environmental effects of transporting goods. [23292]

Mike Penning: None. However, I have announced my intention to support freight industry led measures to reduce the environmental effects of transporting goods. The Department for Transport is working with industry to identify the most effective measures. The work includes an evaluation of environmental benefits.

Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department's review of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation will include consideration of the use of biomethane as a fuel for transport. [25240]

Norman Baker: Biomethane is already eligible to receive certificates under the renewable transport fuel obligation, which sets annual targets for biofuel use in the UK. Currently biomethane counts for 0.03% of UK renewable transport fuels.

The renewable energy directive (RED) requires the UK to source 10% of transport energy from renewable sources by 2020. We will be consulting on measures to implement the RED shortly. Fuels made from wastes and residues, including biomethane, will count twice towards the RED 10% target.

Roads: Accidents

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential combined effect of reductions in the level of the road safety grant and of the ending of funding from his Department for speed cameras on the level of road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths. [24463]

Mike Penning: No such assessment has been made.

The Government continue to provide substantial funding for local authorities. The Government are clear that local government needs increased flexibility to take decisions locally to deliver the solutions that suit them best. Through lifting restrictions on how local government spends its money by removing ring-fences, local authorities are now free to determine their priorities and to make decisions about where savings are found. I would expect that road safety will remain a priority for them. Fixed camera operation remains an option for local authorities who remain free to invest in new cameras using their own resources.

Transport: Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he has allocated to each scheme in the supported group of local transport schemes; and *(a)* how much in total has been allocated to this group and *(b)* was formerly allocated through regional funding allocations. [23115]

Norman Baker: We have not allocated a specific sum of money to individual schemes in the supported pool nor to the pool in total. The total of the most recently requested or approved Department for Transport capital contribution for all the schemes in the supported pool, as identified in the previous regional funding allocations, is around £408 million. We estimate that no more than £325 million of this would fall in the spending review period. We have invited the promoting local authorities to explore how costs may be reduced and additional funding contributions sought before making a best and final funding bid to the Department. Decisions on the funding for individual schemes will be made in January 2011.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Schemes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people participating in the work programme will have access to skills training. [24617]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme is being designed as a 'black box' programme: we are not specifying what support providers should offer, but we will expect them to find the most effective means of getting each individual referred back to work. This support may include the provision of skills training.

Where it can be demonstrated that a customer has a skills need that is preventing them from getting work, they will also have access to skills provision offered by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what integrated back-to-work support will be provided to jobseekers under the work programme. [24618]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme will be a 'black box' programme: providers will be free to design support according to the needs of the individuals referred to them and to local circumstances. We believe this will be more effective than a 'one-size-fits-all' programme prescribed by central Government.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how mentors for the work programme will be recruited. [24620]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme will be a 'black box' programme: providers will be free to design support based on the needs of individuals and target the right support at the right time.

As such, it will be up to providers, working with local partners, to decide whether they wish to use mentor services to help support people into work, and it will be up to them how they are recruited.

However, a key element of the New Enterprise Allowance will be to provide customers with access to voluntary business mentors who will provide guidance and support as they develop their business idea through to the early stages of trading.

Delivery options have yet to be finalised and agreed, but we envisage a role for Jobcentre Plus working alongside the voluntary and enterprise sectors to create new partnerships to build a network of mentors and ensure unemployed people can get the business support they need.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his contribution of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 444, on welfare reform, whether *(a)* single regional contracts will be issued for the proposed work programme or *(b)* the proposed work programme in each area will involve both private and voluntary sector organisations. [24659]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Department will ensure there are at least two providers delivering Work Programme services across each contract package area. This will ensure there is ongoing competition between providers to drive up performance. Each regional 'lot' will contain up to two contract-package-areas.

(b) For the Work Programme to be successful we expect that prime providers will need to work with a broad range of sub-contractors and local partners in order to deliver the personalised and localised services required in today's labour market. We would expect, though do not intend to require, that each provider will have a range of sub-contractors including organisations from the private and voluntary sector.

We are actively encouraging local partners to work with potential Work Programme providers in their areas in the development of bids that are responsive to local circumstances. The Framework specification places clear expectations on suppliers to engage with partners in developing and delivering proposals, and the Work Programme specification will further endorse the requirement for partnership engagement in the development of proposals and delivery of the programme.

We have also taken active steps to encourage the involvement of voluntary sector organisations in the delivery of the Work Programme, including events in London, Bristol, Port Talbot and Glasgow for voluntary sector organisations to hear about the programme and how they can get involved, an event hosted by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion, supported by the Department, which provided potential sub-contractors, particularly those from the voluntary sector or smaller organisations, with information on what being a sub-contractor would mean for them; and a round table event with key voluntary sector groups to ensure that they are fully informed on plans for the Work Programme.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral statement of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 438-40, on welfare reform, which existing programmes will be included in the work programme. [24660]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme will support a wide range of customers—from jobseeker's allowance recipients who have been out of work for some time, to customers who may previously have been receiving incapacity benefits for many years.

Most current provision, including all legacy New Deal programmes, the Flexible New Deal and Pathways to Work will be replaced by the Work Programme by summer 2011.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects a local enterprise partnership for Newcastle, Tyneside and Northumberland to be established. [24972]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

On 28 October, the Government published their Local Growth White Paper, which set out their approach to achieving local economic growth by shifting power to local levels and helping to create the right conditions for growth and recovery. This included announcing the first local enterprise partnerships which would proceed.

Government will work with the relevant local authority and business partners in Newcastle Tyneside and Northumberland and other parts of the country where no local enterprise partnership has been announced, in order to ensure future proposals allow all areas to progress, and I have asked my officials to engage directly with local partners. Government will welcome revised proposals from these places as they become ready.

Lone Parents: Personal Income

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many single income families with a household income between £43,875 and £50,000 reside in Wales. [17923]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available as HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data at such levels of detail.

Pension Funds: Trusts

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of understanding among pension fund trustees of their fiduciary duty to take into account environmental, social and governance issues where they are financially material; [25832]

(2) whether he has had discussions with the Pensions Regulator on the adequacy of guidance and training for pension fund trustees in respect of their fiduciary duty to take into account environmental, social and governance issues where they are financially relevant. [25833]

Steve Webb: Trustees do not have a specific fiduciary duty to consider environmental, social and governance issues, but they are required by law to ensure that their scheme has a statement of investment principles to disclose its investment policies. This must include a declaration of the extent (if at all) to which social, environmental, or ethical considerations are taken into account in the selection, retention, and realisation of investments.

It is therefore for trustees to decide how best to address social, environmental and ethical considerations while meeting their fiduciary duty to serve members' best interests.

The Pensions Regulator promotes trustee knowledge and understanding of the requirements and responsibilities of trustees through its trustee toolkit.

Ministers and officials regularly meet the Pensions Regulator to discuss a wide range of issues affecting the regulator and its responsibilities.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the growth rate of social security spending on benefits and pensions, excluding tax credits in real terms in each year from 1980-81 to 2009-10. [24615]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

Annual real growth in social security spending

	Percentage
1980-81	2
1981-82	12
1982-83	7
1983-84	7
1984-85	3
1985-86	3
1986-87	4
1987-88	-2
1988-89	-5
1989-90	-1
1990-91	4
1991-92	11
1992-93	10
1993-94	7
1994-95	1
1995-96	2
1996-97	0
1997-98	-1
1998-99	0
1999-2000	2
2000-01	1
2001-02	3
2002-03	0
2003-04	-7
2004-05	2
2005-06	2
2006-07	0
2007-08	3
2008-09	5
2009-10	7

Notes:
1. The coverage of the figures is not necessarily consistent over the entire period, because of transfers of responsibility between departments. The main transfers of responsibility affecting the figures shown here are:
Child benefit, expenditure has been included until 2002-03; responsibility for it transferred to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in April 2003.
War pensions expenditure has been included until 2001-02; responsibility transferred to the Veteran's Agency in 2002-03.
Family credit has been included until 1999-2000; it was replaced by working families tax credit in October 1999.
Disability working allowance has been included until 1999-2000; it was replaced by disabled person's tax credit in October 1999.
A number of changes to funding for residential care and nursing homes in income support, and payments for care and support through housing benefit, occurred in 2002 and 2003.
2. Figures include all spending on housing benefit and council tax benefit, and their predecessors, regardless of the source of funding.
3. Figures exclude tax credits, benefits delivered by other Departments (except for housing benefit, council tax benefit and predecessors) and almost all benefit spending in Northern Ireland.
Source:
Calculated from DWP Benefit Expenditure Tables

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of disability-related benefits do not receive disability living allowance. [23347]

Maria Miller: The information requested is provided in the following table:

The table shows the number of people claiming each disability benefit who are not in receipt of disability living allowance as of February 2010.

	All disability benefits	*Incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance*	*Attendance allowance*	*Employment and support allowance*
Number of people claiming each disability benefit who are not in receipt of disability living allowance	3,067,060	917,900	1,772,430	378,800

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied
2. Totals will not sum due to overlaps between the benefits
3. Employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008
4. Caseload totals show the number of people with an underlying entitlement to an allowance, so for attendance allowance it includes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital; for incapacity benefit it includes credits only cases
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Disability living allowance is awarded to customers aged under 65 with mobility and/or care needs as a result of a disability or health condition, and is intended to cover some of the costs of these mobility or care needs. It is not an income-replacement benefit like employment and support allowance, and can be paid to customers who are in employment.

Incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance are income-replacement benefits payable to claimants who are unable to work as a result of their disability or health condition. Incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance customers may not be entitled to disability living allowance if they do not have mobility or care needs.

Conversely, some disability living allowance customers may not be entitled to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance, for example if they are able to work.

Attendance allowance is awarded to customers over 65 who need help with personal care or supervision to keep them safe. A customer cannot receive both disability living allowance and attendance allowance.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to publish the report of the pilots of the use of voice risk analysis to detect benefit fraud. [25828]

Chris Grayling: A summary of the evaluation of the use of voice risk analysis was published on the DWP website on 18 October 2010. The full report will also be published on the website 24 November 2010 and a copy will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to encourage registered social landlords to install carbon monoxide detectors in homes. [25429]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has no specific plans to encourage registered social housing providers to install carbon monoxide detectors in their properties. However, registered providers of social housing (formerly known as 'registered social landlords') are required to meet all statutory requirements that provide for the health and safety of the occupants in their properties. Compliance with this is monitored by the Tenant Services Authority through its regulatory standards framework. Current Health and Safety legislation does not require the installation of carbon monoxide alarms but does require the proper maintenance (and replacement if necessary) of gas boilers, flues etc, including annual gas safety checks.

Council Housing: Sales

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to permit local authorities to retain 100% of the capital receipts of the sale of council dwellings; and if he will make a statement. [25883]

Andrew Stunell: At present 75% of the capital receipts from the sale of council dwellings to owner-occupiers, are paid to the Secretary of State. The spending review concluded that this arrangement will continue during the period 2011-15.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [25039]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 18 November 2010]:* The total maximum amounts payable by the Department for Communities and Local Government for each grant programme above £1 million in 2010-11 are in table 1 as follows.

The totals for formula grant paid by my Department (which comprises Revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates) for 2011-12 onwards were published in table 2.8 of the spending review 2010 document. The other grants for 2011-12 and 2012-13 which have so far been confirmed to local authorities are given in table 2 as follows. Details of other programmes will be released in due course.

As part of my Department's broader transparency initiative, grant spending data over £500 from 2008-09 onwards can be found on the Department's website for public scrutiny.

Table 1: 2010-11 grant allocations made

	£ million (to one decimal point)
Local authorities 2010-11	
National Non-Domestic Rates	21,587.8
Revenue Support Grant	3,122.0
Area Based Grant (DCLG only inc. Supporting People)	2,162.7
PFI Special Grant	909.0
Decent Homes—Area Length Management Organisations	509.0
Private Sector Renewal	301.7
Decent Homes—Local Authority	258.8
Disabled Facilities Grant	169.0
Fire programmes (Fire authorities and Local Authorities)	96.5
Improvement, Transformation and Efficiency (to regional leads)	79.4
Homelessness and Housing Reform (Local Authority)	73.3
New Deal for Communities	78.4
Greater London Authority grant	48.1
Growth Areas, Points and Eco Towns	29.1
Local Economic Growth Incentive Capital	18.6
Housing Strategy for Older People (Local Authority)	18.5
Leaders' Boards	16.0
Migration Impacts Fund (Local Authority)	12.3
Housing Management	11.6
Emergency Financial Assistance Local Authorities	7.0
Renewing Neighbourhoods	5.9
Community Sector (Local Authority)	4.0
Implementing Planning Reforms	4.6
Supporting People Admin	4.1
Rent Officer Services and Pension Liabilities	2.5

Table 1: 2010-11 grant allocations made

	£ million (to one decimal point)
Procurement Efficiency in Social Housing	2.0
Thames Gateway	1.6
LA Emergency Budget Reduction grant	1.0
Arm's Length Bodies	
Homes and Communities Agency	3,861.3
Olympics contributions	431.1
Valuation Office Agency	150.2
Planning Inspectorate	47.7
Ordnance Survey	47.2
Tenant Services Authority	33.2
Thames Gateway London Development Corporation	39.2
Thames Gateway Thurrock Development Corporation	26.0
Commission for Local Administration	14.8
Residential Property Tribunal Service	12.0
Audit Commission	11.6
West Northants Development Corporation	11.0
Valuation Tribunals	9.8
Local Government Standards Board	6.4
Firebuy/Fire Service College	1.8
Community Development Foundation	1.5
Leasehold Advisory Service	1.5
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit	1.2
National Tenant Voice	1.2
Voluntary Sector/other	
Community Action	56.3
Revenue Support Grant to specified bodies (eg IDeA)	45.0
Homelessness and Housing Reform	19.5
Coalfields Regeneration Trust	17.7
Groundwork	14.1
Implementing Planning Reforms	7.1
Commission for Architecture and Built Environment	6.9
Cohesion and Faith	6.3
Zero Carbon Buildings (to Zero Carbon Hub)	6.0
Race Equality and Diversity	5.9
New Dimension (to Chief Fire Officers)	5.6
Coalfields Enterprise Fund	5.0
Migration Impact Fund	1.7
Housing Strategy for Older People	1.3
Preventing Extremism	1.1

Table 2: Confirmed grants to local government 2011-13 (except RSG)

		£ million
Grant title	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
Open Source Planning	5.00	10.00
Fire (revenue and capital)	141.58	129.57
Preventing Homelessness	90.00	90.00
New Homes Bonus	196.00	250.00
Local Authority Social Housing Grant	65.00	0.00
Disabled Facilities Grant	180.00	180.00
Decent Homes Arms Length Management Order	260.00	352.00

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25495]

Robert Neill: In the last 12 months the Department's Communication Directorate spent £117,105 on national and regional press cuttings services. Data from our accounting system show the following spend (excluding VAT) per month:

	National cuttings supplier—Durrants (£)	*Regional cuttings supplier—COI (£)*	*Total (£)*
2009			
November	8,678.71	2,591.89	11,270.60
December	7,947.50	3,930.40	11,877.90
2010			
January	8,288.44	5,232.73	13,521.17
February	6,558.47	5,847.16	12,405.63
March	7,473.89	4,704.23	12,178.12
April	8,353.12	3,461.07	11,814.19
May	5,510.57	3,041.35	8,551.92
June	5,752.14	3,554.22	9,306.36
July	5,736.30	4,885.50	10,621.80
August	4,364.43	3,303.61	7,668.04
September	1,582.76	3,881.74	5,464.50
October	2,425.16	n/a	2,425.16

In September 2010 the regional cuttings service was cancelled and the national cuttings service moved to an electronic only format with a limited list of recipients. Neither DCLG Ministers nor officials in the Department now receive hard copy press cuttings. Ministers have taken the view that an excessive and unnecessary amount of taxpayers' money was being spent on press cuttings.

The Department estimates that the cancellation of the regional cuttings service and streamlining of the national cuttings service will save approximately £16,000 and £19,000 respectively in the remainder of this financial year.

The Department does not hold centralised information on press cuttings services conducted for its non-departmental public bodies.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will update Fire and Rescue Service Circular 9/2009 in respect of average response times to *(a)* dwelling fires, *(b)* commercial building fires and *(c)* road traffic collisions; and if he will make a statement. [25890]

Robert Neill: Average response times by Fire and Rescue-Authority area are shown in the following table for the latest period for which incident data are available.

Average response times[1] by fire and rescue services, England[2], April 2009 to March 2010[3]

	Dwelling fires[4]	Commercial building fires[5]	Other building fires[6]	Road traffic collisions[7]
Avon	7.5	7.5	8.1	9.9
Bedfordshire	7.6	7.5	8.0	9.6
Berkshire	7.5	7.8	8.3	10.0
Buckinghamshire[2]	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	9.1	8.5	9.5	10.7
Cheshire	8.4	8.3	8.9	10.5
Cleveland	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.7
Cornwall	11.0	10.2	10.2	12.5
Cumbria	8.6	8.1	8.8	11.4
Derbyshire	7.5	8.3	8.2	9.5
Devon and Somerset	9.3	8.7	9.1	11.4
Dorset	8.4	8.2	9.5	10.1
Durham	8.0	7.0	7.8	9.3
East Sussex	7.1	7.6	7.4	8.6
Essex	8.1	8.6	9.0	10.2
Gloucestershire	9.5	9.3	9.0	11.0
Greater London	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.8
Greater Manchester[2]	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	7.2	7.3	7.3	9.1
Hereford and Worcester	8.9	7.8	9.5	10.8
Hertfordshire	7.7	7.2	7.4	9.2
Humberside	7.0	7.4	7.9	10.5
Isle Of Wight	9.0	8.4	7.1	9.9
Isles Of Scilly	—	—	9.0	—
Kent	6.9	8.0	7.9	9.3
Lancashire	6.8	6.8	7.3	8.7
Leicestershire	7.9	8.3	8.6	10.7
Lincolnshire	9.1	8.1	9.4	11.3
Merseyside	5.6	5.5	5.7	6.1
Norfolk	8.9	8.3	8.7	10.4
North Yorkshire	8.9	8.4	9.8	12.4
Northamptonshire	8.2	8.6	8.6	11.4
Northumberland	9.4	8.9	9.7	11.3
Nottinghamshire	6.6	6.1	7.0	9.2
Oxfordshire	9.5	9.0	9.0	12.3
Shropshire	8.8	7.8	9.4	11.0
South Yorkshire	7.4	7.8	7.7	8.4
Staffordshire	8.2	8.4	8.6	10.1
Suffolk	8.9	9.9	10.1	11.9
Surrey	8.5	8.6	8.5	10.1
Tyne and Wear	5.3	5.1	5.5	6.0
Warwickshire	9.0	6.9	7.7	10.6
West Midlands	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8
West Sussex	8.7	9.6	9.6	10.1
West Yorkshire	6.8	6.5	6.9	7.9
Wiltshire	9.3	9.6	10.3	11.6
England	7.3	7.4	7.9	9.4

[1] As per previous figures, excludes fires where (i) there was heat and smoke damage only, (ii) the call was made after the fire was known to be extinguished, (iii) where the response time calculated gives an hour or more.
[2] Excludes Greater Manchester and Buckinghamshire as data provided were incomplete.
[3] Data are provisional.
[4] In order to be consistent with data source prior to April 2009, chimney fires not included in calculation.
[5] Commercial buildings are taken to be offices and call centres and buildings in the following sectors: retail, wholesale, hotels, holiday accommodation, food and drink, transport, vehicle repair and communications.
[6] Response times to 'Other buildings' are also shown to aid comparison with past data since the report "Review of Fire and Rescue Service Response Times", which was summarised in Circular 9/2009, did not have a category 'Commercial Buildings'. It calculated response times for the four main categories of fire location type: dwelling fires, other buildings fires, road vehicles fires and outdoor fires.
[7] Response times to road traffic collisions in the report "Review of Fire and Rescue Service Response Times", which was summarised in Circular 9/2009, were based on data provided by 10 Fire and Rescue Services.
Source:
CLG analysis of Incident Recording System data

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* the number of fatalities and *(b)* the costs of damage resulting from (a) dwelling fires, (b) commercial building fires and (c) road traffic collisions resulting from his Department's forecasts of changes in fire and rescue response times contained in Fire and Rescue Service Circular 9/2009; and if he will make a statement. [25891]

Robert Neill: No further estimates have been made beyond those in the Report summarised in Fire and Rescue Service Circular 9/2009.

Fire Services: North West

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what date he expects the North West Fire Service control centre in Warrington to be operational. [26019]

Robert Neill: The North West control centre would not become operational until after mid-2011 on current timetables. It is not one of the first three control centres in which the IT system is required to be completed by the main FiReControl contractor EADS (now branded Cassidian) for that date.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Christopher Pincher) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 537W, for steps that we have taken to ensure that EADS will meet their contractual obligations.

The FiReControl project, initiated by the last Government, is over-budget and behind schedule. As with all major Government projects, it is being reviewed to ensure value-for-money for the taxpayer. We have been clear that EADS must deliver to time, cost and quality. The new Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money has been spent on locating the North West Fire Service control centre in Warrington. [26020]

Robert Neill: For the current running costs of all nine control centres, including the North West control centre in Warrington, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Gloucester (Richard Graham) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 505W.

The cost of construction and installation of the control centres was borne by the developers as the buildings were procured through a private developer scheme.

Fire Services: Westmorland

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* retained pumps in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency (i) on each shift and (ii) at each station were available for service on each day of the last 12 months. [26017]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. It is for each local authority to decide how best to provide fire and rescue-related services, allocating resource according to evaluation of risks.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* retained fire pumps there are in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency; and how many staff are attached to each. [26018]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest available centrally held data show that Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service had a total of 53 pumping appliance in use.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to monitor present staffing levels on *(a)* full-time and *(b)* retained Fire Service pumps in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [26074]

Robert Neill: The Department monitors staff numbers on an annual basis for each fire and rescue authority covering (i) whole-time firefighters, (ii) retained firefighters, (iii) fire control staff and (iv) non-uniformed staff.

Housing: Construction

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many initial notices were registered for house builds in each local authority area in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Suffolk in the 12 months prior to the updated building regulations for new homes coming into force on 1 October 2010. [25156]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold a central record of initial notices registered for new house builds in Essex and Suffolk in the 12 months prior to 1 October 2010. However, every local authority in England and Wales is required to keep a publicly accessible register of information relating to initial notices given to them.

Land Supply

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the inclusion of an allowance for windfall land in the five-year land supply calculation. [23748]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* The extant planning policy on housing is set out in Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) issued by the last Government. PPS3 states that allowances for windfalls should not be included in the first 10 years of land supply unless local planning authorities can provide robust evidence of genuine local circumstances that prevent specific sites being identified. In these circumstances, an allowance should be included but should be realistic having regard to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, historic windfall delivery rates and expected future trends.

In the coalition agreement, the new Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development. Planning for housing policy will be considered as part of this. We announced in the Department's Business Plan that we will publish the national planning policy framework by April 2012. We will make a further announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects local enterprise partnerships to attain legal status. [24305]

Greg Clark: On 28 October, the Government published their Local Growth White Paper, which set out their approach to achieving local economic growth by shifting power to local levels and helping to create the right conditions for growth and recovery. This included announcing the first 24 local enterprise partnerships which have been given the go-ahead to establish their boards and begin dialogue with central Government on how we can help them realise the ambitions set out in their proposals.

The Government do not intend to define local enterprise partnerships in legislation. Governance structures will need to be sufficiently robust and clear to ensure proper accountability for delivery. Partnerships will differ across the country in both form and functions in order to best meet local circumstances and opportunities. A partnership may need legal personality or a specified accountable body in some circumstances, such as if it wished to own assets or contract to deliver certain functions. The constitution and legal status of each partnership will be a matter for the partners, informed by the activities that they wish to pursue.

We expect partnerships to be fully open and transparent, in line with the requirements of local authorities.

Local Government Finance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to bring forward legislative proposals to require the publication of each item of local government spending above £500 from January 2011; and what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the information is presented in an appropriate style and context. [25705]

Robert Neill: All local authorities are expected to publish data on items of spend of £500 and over from January 2011. Around 100 councils are already publishing this information. Given the importance of transparency to citizens and communities, I will continue to challenge and support those authorities yet to publish their data. Next month I intend to issue for consultation a Code of Recommended Practice, under section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. This will address issues such as the scope, formatting and timing of the duty to publish the data. In the meantime the Local Public Data Panel has published guidance on spend transparency, which the Local Government Association has taken as a basis for its practical guides for councils on publication of £500 spend and senior salaries. The Code of Recommended Practice will not cover data archiving and legacy issues. This is an important and complex issue with implications for many bodies and is being considered in a broader context.

Local Government: Surveys

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities provided a return to his Department's Gypsy and Traveller survey in each of the last five times the survey was conducted; and how many of those returns were zero in each such survey. [25319]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's Gypsy and Traveller survey is the bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. The data from the previous five counts show the following returns:

Period of count	*Number of local authorities that provided returns*	*Number of local authorities with zero caravan counts*
January 2010	305	50
July 2009	297	46
January 2009	337	57
July 2008	338	49
January 2008	342	54

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local authorities provided returns for the National Rodent Survey in each of the last five years. [25320]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held centrally. The survey is produced by the National Pest Technicians Association rather than by central Government.

Planning

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he expects the power of planning inspectors to amend local plans to be rescinded; [26139]

(2) what variations planning inspectors may make to local authorities' core strategies following their examinations in public. [26140]

Robert Neill: The Government want to see local plans that reflect the aspirations of their community, while maintaining the planning inspector's independent scrutiny role. Measures will be included in the localism Bill which will be introduced to Parliament shortly.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the winner of the first round of the carbon capture and storage demonstration programme. [25752]

Gregory Barker: We aim to award the contract for the first carbon capture and storage demonstration project, currently the subject of an ongoing procurement process, by the end of 2011.

Climate Change: Conferences

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members will be of the UK delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. [24988]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* The UK will be sending 46 delegates to the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, including two UK Ministers, 29 officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, two Ministers and three officials from the devolved Administrations, three officials from the Department for International Development, three officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, two representatives from the British embassy in Mexico, one official from the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs and one official from the Department for Transport. This compares with the total of 70 officials (not including the then Prime Minister's delegation) sent to the COP in Copenhagen in 2009.

The Head of Delegation will be the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne).

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value of grants awarded by his Department was in 2009-10; and how much he expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [26113]

Gregory Barker: The Department awarded £877.85 million in grants in 2009-10[1].

(a) In 2010-11 I expect to award £804.25 million; and

(b) Following the spending review the Department is undertaking a business planning exercise, so cannot yet set out the sum I will award in grants during 2011-12.

[1] This is available on page 77 of the Department's Annual Report 2009-10:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Annual%20Reports%20Accounts%20and%20Business%20Plans/2010/218-decc-resource-2009-10.pdf

Energy: Conservation

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding he plans to allocate to the provision of energy efficiency measures in domestic and non-domestic buildings in the comprehensive spending review period; and how this funding will be administered. [25736]

Gregory Barker: Some existing policies, funded by obligations on energy companies, already have funding for part of the CSR period. To December 2012 energy companies are expected to invest more than £2 billion in the promotion of energy efficiency measures to householders to achieve their obligations under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programme(CESP).

DECC will continue to fund a targeted Warm Front programme and associated fuel poverty activity from a budget of £110 million in 2011-12 and £100 million in 2012-13. Departmental allocations to particular DECC programmes, including to support energy efficiency through the proposed Green Deal, will be subject to the conclusion of the Department's business planning process. Details of the Department's overall CSR settlement are available on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/csr_hmt_releas/csr_hmt_releas.aspx

The most significant funding for Green Deal will come through private sector investment.

Energy: Housing

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria he plans to put in place to determine whether an energy efficiency measure will qualify for support under the proposed Green Deal programme. [25808]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* The Energy Bill will contain powers for the criteria and eligible measures to be set out in secondary legislation, which will be consulted on and taken forward next year.

A key element of the Green Deal finance arrangements is that only measures that can demonstrate payback through energy efficiency savings, which are equal to or greater than the financing costs, will qualify.

A future energy company obligation will provide additional financial support for vulnerable households and those in difficult to treat homes. Combining these finance sources will allow more difficult or expensive measures to be delivered under the Green Deal framework.

Fuel Poverty

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure that his proposed Green Deal assists those in fuel poverty. [23442]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will provide the opportunity for householders to take action to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and protect themselves against price rises through greater energy saving. The new energy company obligation (ECO), which will take over from the current carbon emissions reduction target and community energy saving programme when they come to an end, will run in parallel with the Green Deal. The ECO will focus particularly on those, such as the most vulnerable and those in hard to treat homes, who require extra help.

We expect energy companies to play a greater role than under previous obligations in helping ensure that more of the poorest and most vulnerable can afford to heat their homes adequately. Alongside insulation measures, we expect them to be able to offer basic heating systems for those who most need them.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to support vulnerable consumers affected by energy price increases. [25780]

Charles Hendry: From April 2011, regulations made under the powers in the Energy Act 2010 will require energy suppliers to provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households—with total support of £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million in 2014-15.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to consider the merits of incorporating the provision of HM Treasury-funded grants for low income and fuel poor households in the proposed Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [26092]

Gregory Barker: A new Energy Company Obligation, to replace the current Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and Community Energy Saving Programme, will run alongside Green Deal with a greater focus on low income vulnerable households and those in hard to treat properties. The obligation will include a wider range of measures which improve energy performance, such as heating systems.

Warm Front will continue until the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation are launched. We are working to improve the cost-effectiveness of the Warm Front Scheme by ensuring that activity is better targeted at the poorest and most vulnerable. In addition, from April next year, energy suppliers will be required to provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in the *(a)* private rented, *(b)* social and *(c)* owner-occupied sector in (i) England, (ii) Hyndburn and (iii) Haslingden are classed as being in fuel poverty. [26187]

Gregory Barker: In 2008, there were 3.3 million fuel poor households in England. 0.6 million of these households were in the private rented sector, 0.6 million were in the social sector and 2.1 million were in the owner-occupied sector.

In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 5,500 fuel poor households in the local authority of Hyndburn. Data for the town of Haslingden are not available. Splits by tenure are only available at a national level.

Global Climate Fund

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the creation of a global climate fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. [26042]

Gregory Barker: We support setting up the Green Climate Fund, as set out in the Copenhagen Accord, and are working towards a decision at COP16 in Cancun to achieve this as part of a balanced package of outcomes.

Renewables Obligation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the renewables obligation in each year *(a)* between 2002-03 and 2010-11 and *(b)* of the 2010 spending review period. [21380]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has classified the renewables obligation as involving imputed tax and spending. The ONS's estimates of the historic tax and spend through the renewables obligation can be found in Table 11.1 of the 2010 Blue Book. This can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/bluebook2010.pdf

Forecasts are the responsibility of the Independent Office of Budget Responsibility.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25484]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given today by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

Members: Pensions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Leader of the House when he expects to be in a position to bring forward proposals for reform of the pensions scheme for hon. Members. [25661]

Sir George Young: I set out the Government position in my written ministerial statement of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 70WS. We will make a further statement following the conclusion of the work of the Independent Public Service Pension Commission and the publication of their final report.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the rate of convictions for offences of human trafficking. [25731]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) takes this issue very seriously and is working closely with its partners to ensure that strong cases are built, so that prosecutions for human trafficking offences lead to more convictions in court. Where the CPS is unable to prosecute for a human trafficking offence, it will when appropriate prosecute for other offences such as assisting unlawful immigration to a member state (facilitation), rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill and causing or inciting prostitution for gain.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answers of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 5, on mental health care provision, what steps his Department plans to take to assist service personnel and veterans with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and alcohol-related disorders. [25421]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Mental Health Services (DMHS) provide a wide range of assessment and treatment facilities for service personnel who are thought to be suffering with mental health disorders, including alcohol misuse and related co-morbidity. Techniques used to manage disorders will vary with each individual case, but may include a combination of motivational interviewing and pharmacological treatment, provided by trained personnel. Care is also provided by primary care facilities for less complex cases, and in almost all cases primary care will be involved in supporting the various interventions that the DMHS provide. Where appropriate the chain of command will support personnel who wish to reduce or cease their alcohol consumption, and the single service alcohol-use policies are clear that excessive alcohol use which impacts upon a person's ability to perform their duties will not be tolerated.

The national health service has lead responsibility for the provision of help to ex-service personnel experiencing mental health problems, including alcohol misuse. The Ministry of Defence is working with the Department of Health to ensure that the mental healthcare needs of former service personnel are met, including through the implementation of recommendations made by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his report "Fighting Fit", which seeks to address mental health issues in the armed forces community.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people resident in each *(a)* Government Office region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency were recruited to each of the armed forces in each year since 2000. [21438]

Mr Robathan: The requested information is not held centrally. The following tables, however, provide the number of entrants from recruitment centres around the UK. This will give an indication of the geographical spread of recruitment but does not provide a comprehensive picture of where these individuals may reside as they may not always apply to join the services through their nearest career office or may choose other means by which to apply.

Royal Navy and Royal Marine officers are primarily recruited via regional officer careers liaison centres, each of which covers a large area of the UK. Prior to 2009-10 RN/RM officers were not recruited through armed forces career offices. The recruitment data for army officers are based on data related to the location of the schools and universities from which Officers are recruited together with the small number recruited via careers offices. Army officer entrant figures before 2007-08 were collected on a different basis than currently and are not included. Figures for those recruited directly to particular regiments have not been included.

Figures are not available for all years requested as over time various IT systems have been used which are not now compatible with current systems.

In the following tables the following abbreviations are used:

AFCO—Armed Forces Careers Office

ACIO—Army Career Information Office

CIO—Career Information Office.

OCLC—Officer Career Liaison Office

RN and RM officer entrants

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
OCLC Birmingham	20	29	38	43	30	25	48
OCLC London	42	54	61	50	89	77	64
OCLC Manchester	57	74	76	66	57	50	79
OCLC Northern Ireland	5	3	2	4	4	6	4
OCLC Peterborough	30	32	23	46	39	29	46
OCLC Plymouth	38	53	53	48	56	34	61
OCLC Rosyth	22	27	36	35	26	20	28
Admiralty Interview Board	80	62	48	37	58	71	49
Naval Recruiting	—	14	6	3	22	25	7
AFCO London	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
AFCO Luton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
AFCO Portsmouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
AFCO Reading	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
CIO Guildford	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
RN and RM Careers Southampton	—	—	—	—	—	—	3

RN and RM other rank entrants

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
CIO Derby	57	47	55	51	65	58	52
AFCO Aberdeen	45	45	36	47	26	21	14
AFCO Belfast	66	45	40	53	44	41	45
AFCO Birmingham	99	68	76	62	81	78	82
AFCO Bournemouth	65	74	103	104	101	117	93
AFCO Brighton	45	43	58	55	69	54	73
AFCO Bristol	61	61	78	81	73	71	82
AFCO Cambridge	14	15	17	6	6	16	29
AFCO Cardiff	66	88	78	77	70	101	80
AFCO Carlisle	46	31	51	45	50	59	55
AFCO Chatham	43	33	45	43	67	33	57
AFCO Coventry	41	31	37	45	41	40	37
AFCO Dundee	64	51	42	42	50	42	45
AFCO Edinburgh	92	82	46	45	35	80	64
AFCO Exeter	60	57	79	64	71	82	101
AFCO Glasgow	76	108	89	67	89	114	90
AFCO Gloucester	52	44	41	51	48	57	69
AFCO Hull	106	80	88	90	89	72	95
AFCO Inverness	18	23	33	20	21	25	20
AFCO Ipswich	47	28	48	51	41	50	45
AFCO Leeds	79	95	103	88	62	100	140
AFCO Leicester	59	42	44	35	39	26	40
AFCO Lincoln	54	66	69	63	59	80	68
AFCO Liverpool	152	173	172	150	168	175	168
AFCO London	93	99	111	155	132	157	116
AFCO Luton	68	53	47	76	64	81	65
AFCO Manchester	153	137	146	131	159	193	179

RN and RM other rank entrants

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
AFCO Middlesbrough	87	79	90	81	68	91	81
AFCO Newcastle	148	155	162	153	142	163	143
AFCO Norwich	51	52	55	43	48	53	50
AFCO Nottingham	85	61	61	74	49	74	55
AFCO Oxford	46	44	36	42	34	48	40
AFCO Peterborough	24	37	43	54	47	36	40
AFCO Plymouth	231	216	193	169	217	219	171
AFCO Portsmouth	205	150	168	156	170	179	162
AFCO Preston	89	66	76	86	77	106	91
AFCO Reading	—	15	31	41	43	55	48
AFCO Redruth	66	67	50	59	47	62	69
AFCO Sheffield	83	82	89	69	85	85	89
AFCO Shrewsbury	48	43	59	37	45	36	45
AFCO Stoke	30	23	37	26	32	37	64
AFCO Swansea	74	51	81	52	71	72	85
AFCO Wrexham	26	31	45	34	39	31	40
CIO Canterbury	25	28	24	40	56	50	53
CIO Chelmsford	30	38	45	72	65	69	56
CIO Darlington	66	42	49	71	61	70	54
CIO Dunfermline	31	32	31	31	30	28	23
CIO Guildford	43	50	56	61	62	87	55
CIO Taunton(RN & RM)	89	70	71	55	75	59	52
CIO Wolverhampton	20	22	14	22	18	19	23
RN&RM Careers Office Ilford	19	32	21	45	47	45	47
RN&RM Careers Southampton	46	39	58	52	52	61	55
Royal Navy St Helens	57	51	41	57	49	59	54
Naval Recruiting HQ	1	1	2	2	3	2	1

Army officers

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
East	47	47	53
London	76	71	65
North East	11	56	58
North West	32	61	41
Scotland	74	61	48
South East	55	100	84
Wessex	7	27	46
West Midlands	65	84	58
Northern Ireland	8	9	16
East Anglia	8	6	14
East Midlands	3	3	1
Home Counties	7	3	3
South	3	6	2
South West	1	5	6
Wales (North)	—	4	9
Wales (South)	1	5	11

Army other ranks

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
ACIO Abergavenny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
ACIO Aldershot	93	115	126	113	131	94	89	78	116	122
ACIO Ashington	70	60	71	47	46	59	54	44	39	66
ACIO Barnsley	102	121	130	121	89	66	100	88	77	110
ACIO Barnstaple	56	54	41	56	48	60	61	49	52	37
ACIO Barrow-in-Furness	93	77	70	75	47	42	27	47	55	40
ACIO Bath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
ACIO Bathgate	52	55	77	49	59	36	51	41	40	47
ACIO Birkenhead	155	144	125	122	86	101	99	141	106	88
ACIO Bishop Auckland	74	72	78	80	46	71	66	42	50	54
ACIO Blackburn	93	95	114	85	71	122	115	71	70	74
ACIO Blackpool	126	99	114	93	86	103	107	69	94	113
ACIO Bolton	113	139	141	153	118	127	81	94	163	155

Army other ranks

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
ACIO Boston	39	49	70	67	48	51	66	58	70	53
ACIO Bradford	141	143	172	170	131	139	154	119	143	158
ACIO Bridgend	—	—	—	—	—	24	60	44	55	44
ACIO Bromley	134	176	180	110	65	93	96	108	97	102
ACIO Burnley	94	87	107	103	88	109	108	103	96	120
ACIO Burton-on-Trent	108	113	130	120	72	105	104	87	99	106
ACIO Canterbury	87	105	90	63	58	70	71	55	64	46
ACIO Carmarthen	44	60	34	39	30	42	35	39	33	42
ACIO Catterick	35	24	32	25	18	24	39	31	46	64
ACIO Chelmsford	54	112	144	150	106	107	143	73	62	64
ACIO Chester	103	92	94	81	55	75	75	75	82	68
ACIO Chesterfield	85	99	94	113	76	109	122	63	75	74
ACIO Chichester	40	31	22	8	32	2	—	23	36	37
ACIO Coleraine	94	74	80	55	74	47	52	32	49	42
ACIO Coventry	162	161	168	167	150	123	148	191	194	169
ACIO Croydon	88	157	205	168	68	133	134	106	91	106
ACIO Darlington	84	83	106	90	32	69	93	75	83	81
ACIO Derby	98	90	97	63	66	77	79	91	105	116
ACIO Doncaster	140	132	132	143	84	133	143	112	151	127
ACIO Dover	47	61	65	42	47	50	45	48	58	76
ACIO Dumbarton	34	42	62	48	42	61	52	18	36	39
ACIO Dumfries	79	61	74	77	61	47	59	26	47	51
ACIO Dunfermline	72	64	58	112	56	65	44	35	42	46
ACIO Durham	129	125	122	120	81	95	92	67	77	59
ACIO Elgin	43	42	27	40	32	33	25	22	17	25
ACIO Enniskillen	46	29	38	30	27	14	16	31	35	66
ACIO Galashiels	54	36	55	46	24	22	23	31	27	35
ACIO Greenock	37	22	41	48	20	33	[illegible]	14	29	47
ACIO Grimsby	80	112	117	110	84	78	79	82	64	93
ACIO Halifax	72	64	67	71	44	50	38	59	50	63
ACIO Hamilton	102	81	123	139	92	79	52	51	79	81
ACIO Haverfordwest	48	51	51	54	54	48	40	27	42	36
ACIO Hereford	93	74	76	78	53	77	80	75	92	80
ACIO Huddersfield	111	133	140	104	81	63	95	41	84	72
ACIO Ilford	125	149	186	210	92	97	107	122	115	130
ACIO Ipswich	68	71	67	58	71	73	97	97	112	73
ACIO Irvine	146	80	149	148	111	97	88	57	63	106
ACIO Kirkcaldy	67	65	73	83	42	52	51	38	47	43
ACIO Lancaster	87	86	89	78	69	68	64	67	98	82
ACIO Luton	68	90	132	135	85	116	158	132	132	125
ACIO Mansfield	99	117	109	113	98	74	82	90	130	123
ACIO Merthyr Tydfil	—	—	—	—	20	50	70	54	62	51
ACIO Milton Keynes	79	100	96	95	44	72	78	83	87	44
ACIO Newport	123	158	124	118	67	105	126	102	75	99
ACIO Newport (IOW)	51	47	35	40	30	25	34	24	25	31
ACIO Northampton	108	88	131	127	118	112	129	143	171	194
ACIO Oldham	86	88	91	111	103	95	101	78	95	115
ACIO Oxford	63	73	95	82	55	55	83	50	68	57
ACIO Paisley	62	42	90	69	48	40	31	25	28	57
ACIO Perth	54	34	45	36	25	30	37	27	33	35
ACIO Pontypridd	101	142	120	124	89	80	78	74	60	72
ACIO Portadown	66	63	55	45	27	35	24	34	54	68
ACIO Rochdale	—	—	—	—	—	31	83	76	69	76
ACIO Salisbury	99	108	109	77	60	70	92	106	96	72
ACIO Scarborough	65	85	104	48	56	51	70	62	66	39
ACIO Southampton	278	84	200	85	65	71	98	79	98	100
ACIO South Shields	69	83	80	87	49	63	71	70	57	68
ACIO Stirling	108	101	85	71	63	86	90	45	45	93
ACIO Stockport	109	105	104	118	104	108	121	109	98	108
ACIO Sunderland	133	117	144	116	79	90	98	122	117	95
ACIO Taunton	108	94	115	84	66	65	72	79	81	76
ACIO Torquay	62	81	87	76	53	44	63	68	67	46
ACIO Tunbridge Wells	22	23	34	29	15	36	30	26	27	14
ACIO Victoria	299	461	525	461	340	267	344	314	520	214

Army other ranks

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
ACIO Wakefield	128	129	129	107	95	85	119	141	150	129
ACIO Warrington	136	176	196	101	81	98	102	82	76	104
ACIO Wembley	124	158	166	194	128	129	111	124	127	132
ACIO Wigan	124	113	130	126	87	101	108	104	119	95
ACIO Wolverhampton	167	147	189	169	103	111	119	181	217	204
ACIO Worcester	104	120	69	117	111	117	140	142	130	152
ACIO Workington	61	53	57	43	42	36	60	44	51	45
ACIO York	67	76	107	58	54	74	87	97	95	99
AFCO Aberdeen	102	66	102	83	86	82	51	53	33	48
AFCO Belfast	378	299	401	312	265	214	246	260	291	318
AFCO Birmingham	668	681	737	665	508	505	573	744	832	664
AFCO Bournemouth	215	226	203	164	123	150	205	204	208	150
AFCO Brighton	190	220	248	206	202	146	161	191	208	184
AFCO Bristol	170	213	227	225	180	144	149	138	170	150
AFCO Cambridge	245	267	376	369	262	327	386	329	359	353
AFCO Cardiff	490	518	400	402	274	380	440	388	339	325
AFCO Carlisle	203	175	195	161	128	115	135	150	157	160
AFCO Chatham	270	311	341	269	210	255	253	236	248	241
AFCO Dundee	281	266	263	299	195	207	181	153	178	205
AFCO Edinburgh	288	330	384	316	263	203	234	187	185	245
AFCO Exeter	294	299	348	295	234	240	276	300	283	238
AFCO Glasgow	647	721	791	723	521	516	523	309	396	586
AFCO Hull	305	307	436	255	213	256	304	294	335	315
AFCO Inverness	125	91	100	113	73	101	78	56	56	68
AFCO Leeds	652	656	693	631	523	547	677	572	630	624
AFCO Leicester	241	220	287	269	201	220	263	260	335	393
AFCO Lincoln	233	289	323	255	191	227	253	234	231	267
AFCO Liverpool	670	701	683	527	410	485	504	515	512	510
AFCO London	819	1189	1400	1478	1102	1034	966	1093	1306	856
AFCO Manchester	694	698	724	764	615	664	668	681	738	783
AFCO Middlesbrough	589	515	712	610	366	471	481	375	395	395
AFCO Newcastle	505	472	560	488	351	348	440	384	401	434
AFCO Norwich	198	204	174	174	172	222	264	240	310	210
AFCO Nottingham	423	427	413	412	353	398	441	401	501	524
AFCO Peterborough	107	91	119	128	97	112	135	128	131	125
AFCO Plymouth	251	269	197	235	182	201	228	196	198	141
AFCO Portsmouth	505	333	474	329	295	282	352	330	363	385
AFCO Preston	517	467	553	472	398	543	513	450	488	527
AFCO Reading	399	266	293	294	174	221	245	233	266	190
AFCO Redruth	98	107	74	62	62	73	90	77	101	58
AFCO Sheffield	378	371	378	413	277	303	376	335	341	383
AFCO Shrewsbury	303	313	259	303	274	353	317	332	338	348
AFCO Southend-on-Sea	109	210	225	280	202	181	217	205	215	200
AFCO Stoke-on-Trent	299	303	332	294	224	292	326	298	304	357
AFCO Swansea	335	318	241	225	204	240	275	224	293	249
AFCO Wrexham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Colchester Forward Operating Base	—	1	—	—	—	1	6	66	81	84
Crewe	—	—	4	1	1	4	38	31	36	59
Kendal	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Kirkby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	17
St Helens	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	24

RAF officer and other ranks entrants

	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
AFCO Cambridge	38	65	53	38	20	30	40
AFCO Leicester	57	92	35	26	27	47	89
AFCO Lincoln	184	233	117	75	61	73	139
AFCO Luton	27	23	4	5	18	24	45
AFCO Norwich	56	108	54	38	53	55	101
AFCO Nottingham	103	142	95	58	33	84	127
AFCO Peterborough	73	111	93	43	36	52	88

RAF officer and other ranks entrants

	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
AFCO Nottingham	11	31	24	11	1	0	0
AFCO Hull	73	95	66	51	23	41	75
AFCO Leeds	132	123	85	69	60	79	137
AFCO Middlesbrough	130	154	77	52	51	71	165
AFCO Newcastle	115	167	100	42	45	65	131
AFCO Sheffield	168	131	113	84	64	64	101
AFCO Leeds	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
AFCO Carlisle	45	54	39	17	28	42	46
AFCO Liverpool	174	271	177	76	60	109	189
AFCO Manchester	165	261	90	39	37	61	133
AFCO Preston	126	170	81	59	36	70	112
AFCO Wrexham	62	77	73	37	44	55	148
AFCO Aberdeen	12	24	11	12	14	35	47
AFCO Belfast	26	25	36	28	22	46	69
AFCO Dundee	49	63	56	31	17	42	85
AFCO Edinburgh	38	49	41	30	27	42	71
AFCO Glasgow	96	105	59	30	27	64	117
AFCO Inverness	17	32	24	27	17	31	46
Kentigern House—Glasgow	10	27	51	3	2	0	0
AFCO Bournemouth	71	48	56	23	25	24	47
AFCO Brighton	63	79	69	37	24	36	65
AFCO Chatham	74	105	66	41	21	47	66
AFCO London	72	58	74	43	31	37	68
AFCO Oxford	89	107	74	49	25	24	64
AFCO Portsmouth	59	61	9	55	33	48	86
AFCO Southend	49	72	33	20	18	26	53
AFCO Bristol	74	90	65	34	19	37	64
AFCO Cardiff	114	142	58	22	30	38	97
AFCO Exeter	61	102	74	47	30	35	79
AFCO Plymouth	73	80	55	28	29	44	87
AFCO Redruth	49	48	29	22	24	33	56
AFCO Swansea	64	100	57	28	26	38	95
AFCO Plymouth	1	2	5	12	3	0	0
AFCO Birmingham	138	167	110	70	93	79	137
AFCO Coventry	78	84	50	19	19	35	43
AFCO Gloucester	77	113	68	30	21	34	92
AFCO Shrewsbury	70	92	66	33	32	39	62
AFCO Stoke	97	108	56	21	23	24	54
Senior Career Liaison Officer RAF Halton	7	16	4	1	0	0	1
Senior Career Liaison Officer RAF Linton on Ouse	6	8	6	7	4	2	3
Senior Career Liaison Officer RAF Wittering	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Director Recruitment and Initial Training—RAF Cranwell	24	4	3	1	0	0	1
Officer and Airmen Selection Centre—RAF Cranwell	214	180	154	170	167	167	210

Armed Forces: Training

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 20-21W, on the Defence Technical College, what *(a)* estimate he has made of the cost to and *(b)* assessment he has made of the likely effects on the armed services of the opportunities arising from bringing services together which will be lost as a result of terminating the Defence Training Rationalisation programme. [24057]

Nick Harvey: The Defence Training Rationalisation (DTR) project was terminated because it became clear that Metrix could not deliver an affordable, commercially robust proposal within the prescribed period. Technical training collocated on as few sites as possible remains the best solution for our armed forces and we have a new programme in place to assess requirement and options.

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 20-21W, on the Defence Technical College, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the cost to his Department in respect of efficiencies foregone and *(b)* direct cost to the Exchequer consequent on terminating the Defence Training Rationalisation programme. [24058]

Nick Harvey: The Defence Training Rationalisation (DTR) project had already delivered some efficiencies in how tri-service training is managed. The project was terminated because it became clear that Metrix could not deliver an affordable, commercially robust proposal within the prescribed period. However, technical training collocated on as few sites as possible remains the best solution for our armed forces and we are working on assessing other options which will seek to create similar efficiencies to DTR.

In terms of direct costs, Ministry of Defence officials are currently engaging with Metrix, the preferred bidder for the DTR contract, over the settlement of claims arising from pre-contract agreements. Therefore the extent of the costs have yet to be determined.

Army

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army infantry have been recruited in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [25682]

Mr Robathan: 3,030 entrants undertook soldier training for the Infantry in the 12 month period up to 30 September 2010. As this figure is calculated on a rolling basis and many of these entrants are still in training, it is not possible to say how many will successfully complete training and enter the field army as infantry personnel.

Equivalent information is not held for officer entrants; apart from professionally qualified officers, such as doctors, officer entrants are not assigned a cap badge until they complete training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Defence Support Group: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are employed by the Defence Support Group in each site in Scotland. [19729]

Peter Luff: The Defence Support Group currently employs 105 personnel at Stirling, which is its only site in Scotland.

Defence: Procurement

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely proportion of defence contracts to be awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in each year of the Spending Review period. [22855]

Peter Luff: In the year to the end of March 2010, some 45% of the new contracts placed by the Ministry of Defence were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Along with other Government Departments, we will be taking action to increase the amount of business placed with SMEs although no specific estimates have been made. The role of SMEs in the defence acquisition and supply chain will be fully explored in the forthcoming Defence and Security Industrial and Technology Green and White Papers.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what project history documentation, as defined in Maintaining a Project History, v4.0, August 2007, was maintained in respect of the *(a)* Nimrod, *(b)* Future Integrated Soldier Technology, *(c)* aircraft carriers and *(d)* future rapid effect system projects; and if he will place a copy of each in the Library. [25920]

Peter Luff: A copy of the Project History documents maintained in respect of the Nimrod MRA4, Future Integrated Soldier Technology, Queen Elizabeth Class carriers and Future Rapid Effect System projects will be placed in the Library following a review to identify whether any information needs to be withheld.

Departmental Intellectual Property

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in how many ongoing legal cases relating to intellectual property his Department is involved. [25756]

Mr Robathan: The are three pending legal actions concerning intellectual property rights involving the Secretary of State for Defence and the Ministry of Defence, all in the United Kingdom.

Departmental Pensions

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely effects on his Department's expenditure in the comprehensive spending review period of the indexation of pensions using the consumer price index. [25743]

Mr Robathan: Detailed calculations are being undertaken by the Ministry of Defence and the Government Actuary's Department to assess the impact on service pensions from the change to the Consumer Price Index. Civil service pensions are paid from a central Government fund. It will not be possible to identify separately those relating to former MOD employees.

France: Aircraft Carriers

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the likely availability for service of the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle between 2020 and 2035; [23999]

(2) what recent reports he has received on *(a)* the availability for service and *(b)* maintenance performed on the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle; and if he will make a statement. [24000]

Nick Harvey: The UK and France have agreed to develop the capability to deploy a UK-French integrated carrier strike group, incorporating assets owned by both countries, by the early 2020s. Work to achieve this is at an early stage and will take account, among other things, of the availability of each nation's naval assets.

Iraq: Military Aid

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what British military equipment has been transferred to the Iraqi Government in each of the last five years; [25070]

(2) what plans his Department has to transfer British military equipment to the Iraqi Government. [25072]

Nick Harvey: The following table lists the gifts of British military equipment above the value of £1,000 to the Government of Iraq which were authorised in the last five years. We currently have no plans to transfer further British military equipment to the Iraqi Government.

Gift Date	*Gift Description*
29 September 2005	Portacabins and machinery given to the Iraqi armed forces and Iraqi local government
4 March 2006	Sleeping bags given to the Iraqi army
19 December 2006	Five containers given to the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement
24 April 2007	Infrastructure at Al Shaibah Logistics Base transferred to Iraqi army
March-April 2007	UK assets from the Old State Building, Basra, and Shatt al Arab Hotel, Basra: mostly comprising accommodation stores, kitchen equipment, generators and temporary ablution facilities
May 2007	Accommodation stores to Iraqi army
2007	Petrol and diesel supplies to Iraqi security forces
August 2007	Infrastructure, accommodation and stores to Iraqi Palace Protection Force
September 2007	300 hand grenades to Iraqi Palace Protection Force
December 2007	Medical supplies to Iraqi medical services following car bombings
January 2008	Boots to the Iraqi Security Forces
2008	Diesel, fuel and oil to Iraqi security forces in Basra and the Basra Council
20 February 2008	15,000 high density blocks to Iraqi security forces
7 February 2008	A supply of HESCO defensive wall to Iraqi security forces
12 March 2008	Four portacabins transferred to Iraqi security forces
March 2008	Halal and vegetarian rations and bottled water to Iraqi security forces in Basra
9 May 2008	Tools for Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams

Members: Correspondence

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter of 27 October 2010 from the hon. Member for North West Durham regarding a meeting with representatives of Astrum in North West Durham constituency. [25512]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I have responded to the hon. Member today.

Military Aircraft

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* fleet air arm and *(b)* Royal Air Force (i) pilots and (ii) other personnel (A) have been trained and (B) will be trained on Rafale aircraft. [25059]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force do not have any pilots or other personnel who are trained to fly or operate the French Rafale aircraft.

As part of the future carrier strike capability announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the recent UK-France Defence Co-operation Treaty, a range of bilateral future training options with France is being considered. However, there are no plans at present to train Royal Navy and RAF pilots or personnel on the Rafale aircraft.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to use Rafale aircraft as an interim measure until the joint strike fighter aircraft is available for use on the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers. [25078]

Peter Luff: As the Prime Minister made clear in his statement on the Strategic Defence and Security Review to the House on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 797, we plan to deliver a carrier strike capability from around 2020 using the carrier variant joint strike fighter and a Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier fitted with catapults and arrestor gear. We are not planning to use Rafale aircraft in the meantime.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what language French aircraft crew will use when operating from and within the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers. [25080]

Nick Harvey: The Queen Elizabeth-class carriers will be ships of the Royal Navy, so the working language aboard will be English.

Naval Emergency Monitoring Team

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to retain the *(a)* Clyde off-site centre and *(b)* Naval Emergency Monitoring Team (North) at their current location in Rhu. [20129]

Nick Harvey: There are no current plans to close the Clyde off-site centre or to move the Naval Emergency Monitoring Team (North) from their current location in Rhu.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions overseas in the last three years a foreign-requested aircraft has provided search and rescue assistance over UK territorial waters; what role each played; what the location of each incident was; and whether each occurrence was in response to obligations under Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. [21447]

Nick Harvey: Around the globe, Search and Rescue (SAR) services are co-ordinated by the Regional Co-ordination Centre whose area of responsibility the overseas territories lies within, with the exception of the British Indian Ocean Territory, British sovereign base areas on Cyprus and the Falkland Islands.

The information requested is not held for the British Indian Ocean Territory. There has been one occasion in territorial waters within the British sovereign base area in Cyprus near RAF Akrotiri on 12 December 2009, when Cyprus police helicopter assets provided SAR jointly with a helicopter from 84 Squadron. There have been no occasions when foreign aircraft have been requested to assist in the Falkland Islands.

For the remaining territories, the only available information concerns an incident in October 2008, when the MV Fedra ran aground off Europa Point in Gibraltar territorial waters. A Spanish coastguard helicopter winched some personnel off the ship as part of a joint UK-Spanish effort.

As a contracting state the UK Government adhere to annex 12 of the convention on international civil aviation; the incidents above follow the principle established in the annex that co-operation between the SAR services of neighbouring states is essential to the efficient conduct of SAR operations.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A aircraft order on the ability of the UK to meet its obligations under section 2.1.9 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue; [24406]

(2) what assessment has he made of the likely effects of the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A aircraft order on the ability of the Government to meet their obligations under section 4.7.1 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue. [24411]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W, to the right hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann), for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the Government has received a request for assistance from a neighbouring state in accordance with section 3.1 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue in each of the last five years; and which search and rescue assets provided assistance on each such occasion. [24410]

Nick Harvey: A search of available records found 34 occasions between 1 January 2005 and 13 November 2010 when the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre tasked Search and Rescue assets to provide assistance to neighbouring states. These are set out in the following tables:

2005

Date	
20 February	Nimrod MR2
2 July	Nimrod MR2
24 August	Nimrod MR2
8 November	Nimrod MR2
1 December	Nimrod MR2

2006

Date	
28 January	RN Sea King
31 January	MCA[1] S-61 Helicopter and RAF Sea King
28 March	Nimrod MR2
7 July	Nimrod MR2
22 August	Nimrod MR2
30 October	Nimrod MR2
1 November	Nimrod MR2

2007

Date	
20 February	Nimrod MR2 and RAF Sea King
1 March	RAF Sea King
3 June	RN Sea King
28 September	Nimrod MR2
31 October	Nimrod MR2
13 November	RAF Sea King and Nimrod MR2

2008

Date	
7 January	RN Sea Kings x 2
25 January	RAF Sea King and Oil Industry Super Puma
21 February	Nimrod MR2
27 February	Nimrod MR2
4 March	Nimrod MR2
5 March	Nimrod MR2
15 March	Nimrod MR2
1 June	MCA[1] S-92 Helicopter
4 October	RAF Sea King
16 November	RAF Sea King
12 December	Nimrod MR2

2009

Date	
14 January	MCA[1] AW-139 Helicopter
10 February	RAF Sea King
18 June	Nimrod MR2
1 September	RN Sea King

2010 (1 January to 13 November)

Date	
4 October	RAF Sea King

[1] MCA = Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service was difficult. Since the withdrawal of the Nimrod MR2 in March 2010, the Ministry of Defence has sought to mitigate the gap in capability through the use of other military assets, including Type 23 Frigates, Merlin anti-submarine warfare helicopters and Hercules C-130 aircraft, and by relying, where appropriate, on assistance from allies and partners. Although it was originally assumed that such measures would only be required for a limited period of time, we are now developing a longer-term plan to mitigate the impact of cancellation.

Territorial Army

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the Territorial Army consists of infantry, excluding the University Officer Training Corps. [25679]

Mr Robathan: As at 1 October 2010, 23% of the Territorial Army consists of the Infantry. These figures are provisional while work continues to validate data held on the Joint Personnel Administration system.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what roles the Territorial Army infantry will be trained for in addition to riflemen. [25681]

Mr Robathan: The Territorial Army Infantry will continue to operate Support Weapons, Signals, Mechanical Transport and a logistics capability (Quartermasters) all of which will be supported by specialist courses and qualifications.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Mining

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had recent discussions on the Aynak mines in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [25879]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I discussed the Aynak mine with the Afghan Minister for Mines during a meeting in June. The contract for the Aynak copper mine in Afghanistan was awarded to a Chinese company, the Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) in 2008 following a tender process overseen by the World Bank on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office on aid workers operating in Taliban-controlled areas; and if he will make a statement. [25875]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK supports the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office (ANSO) through our contributions to the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO). I have not had recent discussions with ANSO. However, UK Government officials based in Kabul are in regular contact and share relevant security information with ANSO.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of his Department's budget spent on programmes in Afghanistan in 2010-11. [25877]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We currently estimate that the Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programme spend in Afghanistan will constitute approximately 2.2% of DFID's total resource budget for 2010-11. DFID will also provide funding to Afghanistan through our contributions to multilateral agencies. These contributions are calculated retrospectively.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25486]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following on press cuttings services in each month between October 2009 and September 2010.

	£
September 2010	2,286.99
August 2010	2,602.09
July 2010	2,915.39
June 2010	4,684.90
May 2010	4,182.79
April 2010	3,871.76
March 2010	3,854.23
February 2010	4,914.60
January 2010	5,420.51
December 2009	4,490.35
November 2009	4,501.65
October 2009	4,218.61

DFID's only non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, has spent no money on press cuttings services over the last year.

Developing Countries: Microfinance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of microfinance programmes supported by his Department. [25286]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) Business Plan 2011-15 commits to developing new projects on microfinance as part of the Government strategy to foster wealth creation and economic growth in developing countries.

All DFID programmes are currently being reviewed under the Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews, to ensure UK aid is effective, represents value for money and brings real benefits to the world's poor. DFID has also commissioned a systematic review of the impact of microfinance on poor people. This report will be posted on the DFID website early next year. Both these exercises will inform DFID's future support in this area.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* charities and *(b)* other organisations have received funding from his Department to institute, develop or run microfinance programmes in each of the last five years. [25287]

Mr Duncan: Over the past five years, the Department for International Development (DFID) has worked directly and indirectly with a broad range of organisations, including non-governmental organisations, foundations, multilateral institutions, banks and financial institutions, in a number of countries to fund microfinance programmes and develop their capacity to provide microfinance services, such as:

Opportunity International Bank of Malawi
Care International in Uganda
Kashf Foundation (an NGO-Microfinance Institution) in Pakistan
State Bank of Pakistan in Pakistan
Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in India
Palli Karma Sahayek Foundation, in Bangladesh
The Institute of Microfinance in Bangladesh
The Microcredit Regulatory Authority in Bangladesh
The Bangladesh Bank in Bangladesh
Financial Sector Deepening Trust in Kenya
Financial Sector Deepening Trust in Tanzania
Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access (Efina) in Nigeria

DFID is unable to provide a definitive list of all organisations funded in each of the last five without incurring disproportionate cost.

Overseas Aid

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department plans to provide to each G20 country in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [26067]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing all spending through country and regional programmes to ensure we focus our resources where we can achieve the most impact. We will close or reduce programmes in countries that no longer require substantial aid programmes. The Secretary of State has previously announced that UK bilateral aid programmes in China and Russia will close.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the ability of his Department to cease payments for projects in *(a)* Russia and *(b)* China before their implementation; and if he will estimate the likely effects on his Department's budget of immediately ceasing such payments. [26069]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral aid to Russia will end in April 2011. Following this decision two projects will be closed early, arrangements have been made with project partners to bring these to an orderly conclusion. All of DFID's projects in China will end by March 2011. The feasibility of terminating projects earlier was assessed on a case by case basis but not considered practicable given the relative imminence of their closure.

Savings as a result of these closures are being reallocated within DFID's wider development programme.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to refugees in Pakistan. [25876]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides aid to internally displaced people (IDPs) within Pakistan, including those who have been displaced by the recent flooding. Among other life saving aid, we have provided emergency shelter for over 230,000 people and safe drinking and hygiene kits for over 800,000 people. DFID's total contribution to the humanitarian response in Pakistan is £134 million.

In addition to aid provided in response to the floods, DFID has provided £54.5 million in humanitarian support to Pakistan since 2008. This includes significant support to people internally displaced as a result of the 2009 conflict in the border areas, such as protection and humanitarian assistance to 800,000 people and food aid for up to 1.4 million people.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on the humanitarian situation in Pakistan. [25878]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I discussed post-floods recovery and reconstruction with the Government of Pakistan and international partners when I attended the Pakistan Development Forum in Islamabad on 15 November 2010. I have had regular discussions on the humanitarian situation with the UN, European Commission, other bilateral donors and the Government of Pakistan to ensure there continues to be an adequate and effective response to the floods.

Thailand: Overseas Aid

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has for humanitarian aid programmes in response to take account of the recent increase in the number of refugees on the Thailand-Burma border. [25551]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing £7.5 million between 2009 and 2012 for people affected by conflict in eastern Burma. This assistance is being delivered through a number of non-governmental organisations. It includes the provision of food, shelter and improved access to legal assistance for Burmese refugees in Thailand, as well as aid for health care, water, sanitation and food security for displaced people in eastern Burma. DFID has not been asked for additional funding in response to the most recent fighting.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: EU Aid

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on financial contributions to Afghanistan from the EU. [25186]

Alistair Burt: I have regular conversations with my EU colleagues on Afghanistan through the Foreign Affairs Council which discusses the strategic direction of Afghanistan. The allocation of funding is made via the Development Cooperation Instrument and the UK has lobbied successfully for Afghanistan to get a greater share of EU financial assistance to Asia. At the recent mid-term review the allocation was increased from €150 million per year during 2001-10 to €200 million per year for 2011-2013. We are encouraging the EU to ensure its engagement in Afghanistan is co-ordinated and targeted, by following an accelerated EU action plan.

British Overseas Territories: Remembrance Day

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason he lays a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the British Overseas Territories; and what recent consideration he has given to the merits of permitting representatives of each such territory to lay a wreath. [26010]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs lays a wreath on behalf of all the British Overseas Territories to recognise the contribution and sacrifice made by citizens of the Overseas Territories during times of conflict. We have received representations from the UK-based representatives of the Overseas Territories to allow them to lay a wreath, but have no plans to change the current arrangements.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the new constitution in Burma for *(a)* democracy, *(b)* human rights and *(c)* equal rights for the ethnic nationalities in that country. [25552]

Mr Lidington: The new Constitution was approved in a rigged referendum in May 2008. We believe it entrenches military rule, as demonstrated by the sham elections held on 7 November; permits the regime's continuing human rights abuses against the Burmese people, including the political, social and economic discrimination suffered by ethnic groups; and provides the military leadership with immunity from prosecution for past crimes and human rights abuses. In addition, the President can grant sweeping powers to the military if a state of emergency is declared, reinstating military control of the country and suspending the rights of its citizens.

The UK has worked to secure a UN General Assembly Resolution which calls on the Burmese authorities to undertake a transparent, inclusive and comprehensive review of the Constitution. This was adopted with a vote on 18 November.

Burma: Thailand

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking in response to the recent increased conflict on the Thailand-Burma border and the creation of a border guard force under the control of the Burma army. [25427]

Mr Lidington: The Government are concerned about the refugee situation on the Thai-Burma border and are monitoring developments closely. We are in touch with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and our ambassador to Thailand raised the issue with the Thai authorities on 18 November.

We understand that many of the ethnic ceasefire and non-ceasefire groups have refused to join the Border Guard Force proposed by the military regime and that this is a source of ongoing tension. We are clear that the regime's pursuit of military solutions rather than a political settlement with ethnic groups will not bring stability. Elections held on 7 November represent a missed opportunity to unite armed and non-armed ethnic groups in a just peace settlement. There is little prospect of national reconciliation without their involvement.

Cuba: EU External Relations

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the EU common position on Cuba; and if he will make a statement. [25300]

Mr Jeremy Browne: UK and EU policy on Cuba is based on the 1996 EU Common Position. The UK and the EU follow the situation in Cuba closely and our policy is kept under constant review. There have been a number of changes in recent years such as the resumption of EU development co-operation and the start of an EU-Cuba political dialogue. Given the ongoing release of political prisoners in Cuba the EU has, with UK support, begun a process of reflection about future options for the EU-Cuba relationship.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on UK policy on the EU common position on Cuba. [25301]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have received no formal representations on the EU common position, which is the basis of UK policy on Cuba. We regularly reply to public inquiries, including from non-governmental organisations, trades unions and business groups, about the common position. EU policy on Cuba, including the common position, is kept under constant review.

Cyprus: Christianity

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of *(a)* Northern Cyprus and *(b)* Turkey on the destruction of Christian religious sites and buildings in Northern Cyprus. [25321]

Mr Lidington: The Government strongly believe that the respect for religious and cultural buildings is a key element in building trust between different communities. Therefore we support the need for greater preservation of churches and other buildings of religious and cultural heritage in northern Cyprus. British diplomats in Nicosia have raised these issues at various levels including with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

We also support the work of the bi-communal Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage who have developed an action plan to protect vulnerable buildings. They have already started work on some projects and hope, with further funding, to soon be able to implement more of their plan.

Developing Countries: Departmental Coordination

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from which units in his Department staff participating in the cross-Government board to deal with conflict overseas will be drawn. [25607]

Mr Bellingham: The Strategic Defence and Security Review of October 2010 confirmed the Government's commitment to building stability overseas through preventing conflict and identifying and tackling emerging threats including from fragile and conflict-affected states. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, in partnership with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, is leading work to develop a new Building Stability Overseas Strategy, to be published in spring 2011. This will set out an integrated approach to building stability overseas, bringing together diplomatic, development, military and other national security tools. The architecture, including the cross-Government board, to support the delivery of the strategy is currently being considered.

Government Hospitality Fund

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government Hospitality Fund spent on the purchase of *(a)* champagne and *(b)* other wines in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [26099]

Mr Bellingham: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for West Suffolk (Matthew Hancock) on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 228W. Of the amounts stated, £27,136 was spent on champagne in 2008-09, which was reduced to £9,070 in 2009-10. No champagne has been purchased this financial year.

Guatemala

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Minister of State with responsibilities for Latin America plans to meet *(a)* female representatives of indigenous communities and *(b)* representatives of human rights organisations during his visit to Guatemala. [26004]

Mr Bellingham: One of the UK's top priorities in Guatemala is to support good governance and human rights—key to improving the deteriorating security situation in the country. During the short visit of the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) to Guatemala he will meet civil society organisations and young leaders—including young indigenous women—during an event to promote a national campaign against domestic violence which the UK is actively supporting.

He will not have a separate meeting with representatives of human rights organisations on this occasion, but he will be raising human rights issues with the Guatemalan Government, and separately our embassy in Guatemala City and officials in London will continue to maintain good contacts with these groups.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the proportion of Iraqi citizens from Christian or Mandaean communities who have become refugees in countries neighbouring Iraq since the start of the war in Iraq in 2003. [25933]

Alistair Burt: Figures released by the UN Refugee Agency, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, estimate that there are currently 23,373 Iraqi Christians living as refugees in the region surrounding Iraq. The number of Sabean/Mandean refugees currently stands at 5,460.

If Iraqi refugees are divided into their religious groups, the Christian minority is the third largest, at 12% of the total. Sunni and Shia Iraq refugees still constitute the most numerous groups.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Iraqi citizens who have become refugees in countries neighbouring Iraq since the start of the war in Iraq in 2003. [25934]

Alistair Burt: The total number of Iraqi refugees registered with the UN Refugee Agency, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), currently stands at 423,355 people, including 72,295 refugees who arrived in 2006 and before. There are approximately 195,428 Iraq refugees in the region, which covers the main countries of asylum: Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iran.

UNHCR figures indicate that there are currently 139,586 Iraq refugees living in Syria; 3,623 in Iran; 30,630 in Jordan; 7,955 in Lebanon; and 5,235 in Turkey.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Iraqi citizens who have become refugees in Syria since the start of the war in Iraq in 2003. [25935]

Alistair Burt: The UN Refugee Agency, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has registered over 290,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria since the start of the Iraq War in 2003. Some have since been officially resettled. Others departed to third countries by other means and some have decided to return to Iraq.

As of the end October 2010, the population of registered Iraqi refugees in Syria stands at 139,586 following UNHCR Syria's revision of its figure for the number of registered Iraqi refugees in Syria. This is based on the verification of their physical presence in Syria throughout 2009 and 2010.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the proportion of Iraqi citizens from Christian or Mandaean communities who have become refugees in Syria since the start of the war in Iraq in 2003. [25936]

Alistair Burt: Figures released by the UN Refugee Agency, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, estimate that there are currently 15,362 Iraqi Christians living as refugees in Syria. The number of Sabean/Mandean refugees in Syria currently stands at 5,113.

There are currently 139,586 Iraqi refugees registered in Syria.

Sergei Magnitsky

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he had discussions with the Russian Government on the case of Sergei Magnitsky during his recent visit to Moscow. [25266]

Mr Lidington: The Government continue to follow Mr Magnitsky's case closely. We have welcomed the official investigation into this case announced by President Medvedev in November 2009, and keenly await its conclusion. We believe it is important that this investigation is thorough and transparent. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also consistently made clear to the Russian Government our concerns about this case, as part of our continuing bilateral human rights dialogue with Russia.

In his recent meetings with the Russian government in Moscow, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also raised issues relating to the rule of law and human rights more generally, stressing how important it is that the law is applied fairly in all cases. He also held more specific discussions on this particular case during his meeting with Russian human rights non-governmental organisations.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Russian Government on the death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky. [25267]

Mr Lidington: The Government continue to follow Mr Magnitsky's case closely. We have welcomed the official investigation into this case announced by President Medvedev in November 2009, and keenly await its conclusion. We believe it is important that this investigation is thorough and transparent. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also consistently made clear to the Russian Government our concerns about this case, as part of our continuing bilateral human rights dialogue with Russia.

In his recent meetings with the Russian Government in Moscow, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also raised issues relating to the rule of law and human rights more generally, stressing how important it is that the law is applied fairly in all cases. He also held more specific discussions on this particular case during his meeting with Russian human rights non-governmental organisations.

Taiwan: Carbon Emissions

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department is having with the Government of Taiwan on the transition to low carbon emissions. [25302]

Mr Bellingham: We have regular exchanges with the Taiwanese authorities about low carbon development. In October 2010, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials visited Taipei to discuss the UK policy framework. The British Trade and Cultural Office Taiwanese Ministry of Economic Affairs also co-hosted a renewable-energy seminar focusing on offshore wind power and marine energy. Taiwan's shift towards a greener economy is gaining momentum and we are actively supporting this transition.

Turkmenistan: Prisoners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the BBC on the detention of journalists Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev in Turkmenistan. [24805]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the British Broadcasting Corporation on the detention of Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev in Turkmenistan.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the BBC Director General about the custodial conditions of journalists Annakurban Amanklychev and Sapardurdy Khadzhiev detained in Turkmenistan. [24806]

Mr Lidington: We have no plans to discuss this matter with the Director General of the British Broadcasting Corporation. We will, however, continue to raise these cases with the Turkmen authorities, including through the European Union.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Press

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much his Department spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months; [19659]

(2) how much was spent on press cuttings services for the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last 12 months. [25483]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office spend on press cuttings and other related services in the last six months of the 2009-10 financial year was £120,863.10. The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the CO, and as such the figure provided also includes the amount spent by the Prime Minister's Office.

Figures for the current financial year will be available only when the Department's resource accounts have been fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2011 summer recess.

Unemployment

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children in *(a)* England, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Great Yarmouth constituency were living in families with no parent in employment between January 2005 and January 2010. [24686]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children in (a) England, (b) Norfolk and (c) Great Yarmouth constituency were living in families with no parent in employment between January 2005 and January 2010. 24686.

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey household datasets. These are currently available for 2004 to 2009. The attached table shows estimates for England and Norfolk. The table provides information for 2005 to 2009.

Due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for the Great Yarmouth constituency because of small sample sizes.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the true value for 95% of all possible samples.

Children[1] living in families with no parent in employment in England and Norfolk

Thousand

		Estimate	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
England	January to December 2005	1,630	1,582	1,678
	January to December 2006	1,645	1,596	1,693
	January to December 2007	1,613	1,564	1,662
	January to December 2008	1,670	1,620	1,721

Children[1] living in families with no parent in employment in England and Norfolk

				Thousand
		Estimate	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
	January to December 2009	1,707	1,655	1,759
Norfolk	January to December 2005	24	16	31
	January to December 2006	20	13	28
	January to December 2007	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
	January to December 2008	22	15	29
	January to December 2009	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

[1] Children refers to children under 16.
[2] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.
[3] Estimates are considered unreliable for practical purposes. This is because of small sample sizes.
Source:
APS household dataset

Jake Berry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children in *(a)* England, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* Rossendale and Darwen constituency were living in families with no parent in employment between January 2005 and January 2010. [25361]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children in (a) England, (b) Lancashire and (c) Rossendale and Darwen constituency were living in families with no parent in employment between January 2005 and January 2010. (25361)

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. These are currently available for 2004 to 2009. The attached table shows estimates for England and Lancashire. The table provides information for 2005 to 2009.

Due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for Rossendale and Darwen constituency because of small sample sizes.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the true value for 95% of all possible samples.

Children[1] living in families with no parent in employment in England and Lancashire

				Thousand
		Estimate	*Lower bound[2]*	*Upper bound[2]*
England	January to December 2005	1,630	1,582	1,678
	January to December 2006	1,645	1,596	1,693
	January to December 2007	1,613	1,564	1,662
	January to December 2008	1,670	1,620	1,721
	January to December 2009	1,707	1,655	1,759
Lancashire	January to December 2005	50	40	59
	January to December 2006	54	42	60
	January to December 2007	50	41	60
	January to December 2008	47	38	57
	January to December 2009	45	35	54

[1] Children refers to children under 16.
[2] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.
Source:
APS household dataset.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to increase the quality of provision for adult education. [25802]

Mr Hayes: The recently published skills strategy ('Skills for Sustainable Growth') sets out our intention to reform adult learning and skills over the remainder of this Parliament and point the way to growth in the longer term. High quality adult education is at the heart of this strategy.

An underpinning principle of the strategy is freedom. Our ambition is to abandon a culture of bureaucratic, central, regulatory burdens, as we believe that control should be devolved from central Government to citizens and communities. This includes giving them a greater role in shaping services and improving quality. Through a combination of increasing competition between training providers; empowering learners by giving them better information about quality of adult education; and by tackling poor performance quickly and robustly, we will drive up standards.

We are taking steps to improve the quality and range of information that is made available about adult education—including through the Next Step and development of sector led Further Education Public Information. This will ensure that learners and employers are better equipped to makes choices about where and what to learn. We are also improving opportunities for learners and employers to give feedback, which we expect providers themselves will use to improve the quality of the education and services they deliver. This user choice and influence will become a powerful mechanism for driving up quality.

Alongside our move towards greater empowerment, we will continue to take steps through the Department and the Skills Funding Agency to improve quality.

The Skills Funding Agency is committed to only contracting with high quality educational and vocational training providers. To this end, the Agency has recently introduced an Approved College and Training Organisation Register (ACTOR), which tests the capacity and capability of organisations to meet 'minimum levels of performance' that are set by this Department (in agreement with sector representative organisations). All providers that wish to be considered for public funding from the agency, for the delivery of educational and vocational training, must be approved on ACTOR. Those organisations that fail to meet the required standards will not be registered and therefore will be ineligible for funding.

Where a provider is on ACTOR and has received funding and their performance subsequently drops, we will act decisively. If they fail to respond to opportunities to improve, we will withdraw a contract from any private training provider (and remove them from ACTOR) and we will close failing colleges. In order to protect the interests of the learners, we will ensure that alternative provision is secured through an excellent education provider. We will publish further details on this approach in spring 2011.

Ofsted will continue to inspect adult learning provision, although we are taking a more proportionate approach to inspections. Any provider who is deemed to be 'outstanding' will not be inspected (unless their performance drops). This will allow Ofsted to focus their attention on providers who cause concern, which improves our capacity to identify and tackle poor performance and quality.

We will also continue to support measures to ensure we have a professionally-qualified teaching workforce, which takes responsibility for keeping its skills up-to-date and relevant. We intend to work with the teaching profession to look at how to create the conditions to encourage flexible and innovative approaches to teaching and learning, which are cost-effective, responsive to employer and learner needs, and make full use of the potential of technology. In specialist areas of provision, employer-led National Skills Academies can help spread good practice. This will support our drive to improve the learning experience.

Finally, the Learning and Skills Improvement Service will from April 2011 be the single sector led body responsible for supporting FE colleges and training organisations to maintain high quality in areas such as leadership and management, teaching and learning, learner support and resource utilisation.

Apprentices

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to implement the pilots proposed in his Department's 2007 Apprenticeship strategy to encourage under-represented women apprentices into traditionally higher paid sectors. [25788]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service is currently finalising its negotiations to fund 16 Diversity in Apprenticeships pilots. It is hoped that the pilots will start early in 2011. We expect them to support approximately 5,000 apprenticeship opportunities for under-represented learners, including women in atypical sectors. The learning from these pilots will be used to influence the wider programme.

Digital Inclusion Task Force

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of progress made by the Digital Inclusion Task Force; and if he will make a statement. [23821]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Digital Inclusion Task Force was set up in 2009 to support Martha Lane Fox, the then Champion for Digital Inclusion.

The Digital Inclusion Taskforce was disbanded in February 2010 in order that Martha and her team could focus on their Race Online 2012 partnership campaign. However, several members of the Task Force are still involved in supporting Martha in her new role as UK Digital Champion.

Martha Lane Fox launched her Race Online 2012 partnership campaign which encourages business partners to train, educate and inspire people to use the web in April 2010. Race Online 2012 currently has over 880 partners who have pledged to help 1.7 million new people get online by the end of the Olympic year. More details of the partnership campaign can be found at:

www.raceonline2012.org

Festivals and Special Occasions: Public Holidays

Karen Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will being forward proposals for a public holiday on the occasion of the marriage of HRH Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton. [25829]

Mr Davey: The royal wedding will take place on 29 April and the Prime Minister has already announced that it will be a bank holiday.

Higher Education: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the local economy of the student population attending university in Coventry. [25526]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* No recent assessment has been made on the effects on the local economy of the student population attending university in Coventry.

However a report produced by Universities UK indicate that

> "Total output generated by the 169 UK Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) was estimated as £59 billion in 2007/08 (£14 billion more than a similar study in 2003/04). HEIs create directly and indirectly around 670,000 jobs and create export earnings worth £5.3 billion".

The report is available at

http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Pages/ImpactOfUniversities4.aspx

Higher Education: Finance

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse was spent on higher education in *(a)* England, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* Rossendale and Darwen constituency in each year from January 2005 to January 2010. [25263]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold a consistent data set on which to give a global answer for the whole of higher education (HE) spend. We do have information covering the three main elements of Government funding to HE.

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) grants

Financial year	*Total HEFCE grant (£000)*
2005-06	6,697,186
2006-07	7,014,360
2007-08	7,413,454
2008-09	7,506,778
2009-10	7,955,120

Source:
HEFCE Annual Reports

The following institutions in Lancashire received direct HEFCE funding in the period concerned:

	FY 2010-11 (£)
Edge Hill University	
2005-06	20,540,557
2006-07	26,144,373
2007-08	24,227,304
2008-09	28,493,754
2009-10	30,190,934
2010-11	27,559,294
Accrington and Rossendale College	
2005-06	855,129
2006-07	782,814
2007-08	717,220
2008-09	668,829
2009-10	750,399
2010-11	811,238
Blackburn College	
2005-06	5,349,080
2006-07	7,697,945
2007-08	7,914,172
2008-09	8,786,434
2009-10	10,587,402
2010-11	10,806,350
Lancaster University	
2005-06	49,959,815
2006-07	61,091,660
2007-08	53,743,843
2008-09	61,198,766
2009-10	60,933,748
2010-11	48,909,854
Blackpool and the Fylde College	
2005-06	6,365,608
2006-07	6,340,867
2007-08	7,451,150
2008-09	8,254,848
2009-10	9,137,212
2010-11	8,987,927
University of Central Lancashire	
2005-06	74,950,992
2006-07	76,665,491
2007-08	74,667,405
2008-09	84,944,079
2009-10	84,145,290
2010-11	85,475,540

HEFCE cannot identify funding for indirectly-funded further education colleges separately. The amount of funding they receive will depend on locally-negotiated agreements with partner higher education institutions (HEIs).

Science and research

The following table gives spend on science and research spend through Research Councils to HEIs. Three HEIs in Lancashire are eligible for this funding. It does not include research spend by other Government Departments or research funding awarded by HEFCE which is included in the above figures. No expenditure can be identified as spent in Rossendale and Darwen constituency.

					£000
Financial year:	*2004-5*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
C Lanes	505	432	677	891	1,093
Edge Hill	2	10	11	74	163
Lancaster	9,626	9,887	10,779	12,912	13,955
UK	919,739	1,064,418	1,151,979	1,358,179	1,531,128

Student support paid[1] England and Lancashire

		£ million
Academic year	*England*	*Lancashire*
2004/05	2,577.7	61.6
2005/06	2,835.7	66.7
2006/07	4,057.0	96.4
2007/08	4,931.4	116.5
2008/09	5,930.8	140.6

[1] Loans, grants and allowances paid to students domiciled in England and studying in the UK. Excludes the tuition fee grants phased out after 2005/06 and part-time fee grants. Includes part-time course grants.
Source:
Student Loans Company

Student support spend figures include the cash value of loans paid. This does not represent the long-term cost to public funds as loans will be repaid. Complete figures are not yet available after academic year 2008/09. Robust student support figures are not available at constituency level.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the appropriate number of members of the board of a local enterprise partnership. [24306]

Mr Prisk: No Government expectations have been set out regarding the number of board members. The Government will normally expect to see business representatives form half the board, with a prominent business leader in the chair as explained in the White Paper on Local Growth.

Trading Standards

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of local authorities provided returns to Trading Standards in accordance with the Hallmarking Act 1973 in each of the last five years. [25317]

Mr Davey: There is no requirement under the Hallmarking Act 1973 for local authority trading standards departments to submit a return on their enforcement activities under the Act. However, local authorities voluntarily submit an annual return on such activities to the Trading Standards Institute (TSI). TSI provide a summary of these to the British Hallmarking Council who publish this in their annual report. Using these figures, the proportion of local authorities providing returns to the TSI are as follows:

	Percentage
2005	73
2006	52
2007	37
2008	43
2009	59

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Directors

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent meetings special advisers in his Department have had with the director-general of the BBC; and whether pensions were discussed at those meetings. [25012]

Mr Vaizey: There have been no meetings between special advisers in the Department and the director-general of the BBC, Mark Thompson, since the terms of the licence fee agreement were settled on 18 and 19 October. The cost of BBC pensions was referred to in discussing the settlement.

British Film Institute: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what conditions are attached to the annual grant in aid funding awarded to the British Film Institute (BFI) to support British film makers and the British film industry; and if he will take steps to ensure that the activities of the BFI which are funded by this grant in aid positively discriminate in favour of promoting, exhibiting and supporting British contemporary film and British film makers. [25212]

Mr Vaizey: The BFI currently has a funding agreement with the UK Film Council, but this will change when the UKFC is abolished as DCMS is currently progressing plans to set up a more direct relationship with BFI. BFI's current strategic objectives are:

(i) to secure the National Film Archive to ensure that the Collections are safe for future generations;

(ii) to evolve a digital hub for access to its collections by the public;

(iii) to sustain an international focus for film exhibition, through the BFI Southbank, the London Film Festival and through mediatheques and other exhibition partnerships across the UK; and

(iv) to ensure the widest diversity of film and knowledge about film is available to everyone in the UK.

The remit to support British film makers and the British film industry currently sits with the UK Film Council through the film lottery fund. The responsibility for the distribution of these funds, following the abolition of the UKFC, will be transferred to an existing body. Details of who the new distributor will be are to be announced later this month.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05; [24911]

(2) what services provided by his Department were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier; and what the monetary value was of each such contract in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available in each case; [24912]

(3) which services of his Department have been the subject of a contract awarded in a tender process in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid since 1997-98; [24913]

(4) what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24914]

Mr Vaizey: Since 1997-98, the Department has had no formal contracts with the Post Office or Royal Mail, and no contracts have been let in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid.

English Heritage

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many submissions each regional office of English Heritage has made to local planning authorities at the planning application stage in each of the last five years; [26036]

(2) how much English Heritage spent on preparing its report on the economic impact of heritage in Yorkshire and the Humber; [26037]

(3) how much English Heritage spent on research into the thermal performance of traditional sash windows for the purposes of its report on Sash Windows: Why They Are Worth Keeping; [26038]

(4) how much English Heritage spent on *(a)* press, *(b)* publicity, *(c)* marketing and *(d)* communications in each of the last five years; [26039]

(5) how much English Heritage spent on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* subsistence in each of the last five years. [26040]

John Penrose: The information requested is not held by the Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of English Heritage.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of English Heritage to write direct to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Music: Copyright

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on extending copyright for musicians' works from 50 to 75 years. [25784]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 18 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 889W. No discussions of the kind referred to have taken place.

Ofcom: Scotland

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence he had with the Secretary of State for Scotland prior to the Government's decision not to accept the recommendation by Ofcom that Scottish Television should be classified as a qualified independent producer. [25058]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport is in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Scotland on a range of matters important to Scotland.

Television: East Sussex

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to improve the quality of television reception in East Sussex. [25422]

Mr Vaizey: As the independent regulator for the communications industry, Ofcom is responsible for ensuring broadcasters comply with their licence conditions in areas such as transmission coverage and reception.

I have therefore asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for Brighton, Kemptown and to write to him direct.

Television: Scotland

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consultation his Department had with *(a)* Scottish Television, *(b)* Scottish Enterprise, *(c)* trade unions in Scotland and *(d)* the broadcasting industry in Scotland prior to the Government's decision not to accept the recommendation by Ofcom that Scottish Television should be classified as a qualified independent producer. [25043]

Mr Vaizey: The Department held a public consultation from 4 November 2009 to 2 February 2010 on the potential reclassification of production companies owned by Channel 3 licence holders. Responses were received from these organisations:

Bees Nees
Caledonia TV
Channel 4
Comedy Unit
Eyeline Media
Finestripe Productions
ITV
IWC Media
La Belle Allee Productions Ltd
Lion Television
Mac TV
Mallinson Sadler Productions
Matchlight Limited
Michael Darlow
Mike Bolland
Ofcom
PACT
Scottish Screen
Scottish Government
Skyline Productions Ltd
STV
Tattiemoon
Tern TV
True TV and Film Ltd
Turmeric Media
UKTV
Ulan Productions
UTV
Visible Ink Television

HEALTH

Air Pollution: Biomass

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effects on *(a)* mortality and *(b)* morbidity of air quality pollutants emitted by biomass plants in the UK. [25377]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

Biomass plants emit, in particular, fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$) and nitrogen oxides. No estimates of current mortality, or morbidity, specifically resulting from emissions from these plants in the UK, have been made.

A general assessment of the health impacts of $PM_{2.5}$, based on 2008 air quality data, estimated that man made emissions of $PM_{2.5}$ reduced the average life expectancy of people living in the UK by six months at an annual cost of £15 billion within the range of £8 billion to £17 billion. Biomass combustion in 2008 was estimated to emit 7.6% of the UK total $PM_{2.5}$ emissions.

Autism: Health Services

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to put in place to ensure adequate healthcare support for people with autism when they enter adulthood. [25644]

Paul Burstow: Effective transition planning that supports young people with autism into adulthood is one of the key aims of the autism strategy, 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives', and is also addressed in the draft statutory guidance recently consulted on.

Currently, those who do not have a statement of special educational needs have access to a health action plan that covers medical management of their condition and strategies to enable self-care and independent living.

The Department has also invested £500,000 to develop materials and resources to improve awareness and training on autism for health and social care professionals to enable front-line staff to better provide services for people with autism, including those in transition.

Benzodiazepines and Tranquillisers

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* in-patients and *(b)* prisoners received prescriptions for (i) benzodiazepine and (ii) Z drug tranquilisers in each of the last three years. [25189]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of in-patients or prisoners prescribed a particular medicine or class of medicine is not collected centrally, nor are data held relating to the number of prescription items dispensed in hospitals or prisons.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he issues guidance to NHS organisations on requests made by *(a)* care homes and *(b)* primary care trusts to the relatives of patients on top-up financing. [25999]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not issue such guidance to national health service organisations.

The Department issues guidance to local authorities on top-up fees for local-authority-supported residential care in Local Authority Circular (2004) 20. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost per resident per week of residential care in local authority-owned care homes in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* Southampton in the latest period for which figures are available. [26001]

Paul Burstow: Data on local authority expenditure and unit costs on state-funded social care for 2008-09 were collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

We are informed by the Information Centre that, in 2008-09, the average cost per resident per week of residential care in local authority-owned residential care homes was £894 in Hampshire and £928 in Southampton.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of regional variations in the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [26126]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioners (GPs) gather data on the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) through the Quality and Outcomes Framework. This means that data on recorded COPD prevalence are available for each GP practice, as well as for larger geographic areas such as primary care trust and strategic health authority (SHA) areas. The raw data for 2008-09 are publicly available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2008/09/data-tables/prevalence-data-tables

The Consultation document on a Strategy for Services for COPD in England contains an estimate of all COPD prevalence (including unrecorded prevalence), but this estimate has not currently been disaggregated by region.

The Department has appointed respiratory clinical leads in each of the 10 SHAs in England and they have been provided with some benchmarking data. Part of the responsibility of these posts is to champion the reduction of any regional variation through local action, leading to improved patient outcomes at reduced cost to the national health service.

The Department has also funded a programme of work with NHS Improvement and with each SHA aimed at improving patient outcomes at reduced cost to the NHS, which should also reduce regional variation in the provision of services for COPD.

Cumberland Infirmary: Costs

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the capital cost of the Cumberland Infirmary, Cumbria. [24303]

Mr Simon Burns: In 1997, approval was given to a scheme involving the development of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle through the private finance initiative (PFI). At financial close on 3 November 1997 this PFI scheme was approved at £67 million.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25548]

Mr Simon Burns: The legal framework governing public procurement is designed to ensure that public procurement is fair, transparent and not used to discriminate by setting up barriers to free trade.

This means that public sector buyers cannot restrict their purchases to specific locations or suppliers, as this would discriminate against producers from further away and, also, reduce competition contrary to United Kingdom public procurement policy that is designed to achieve better value for money for the taxpayer.

Quadrant Catering provides the staff restaurant and hospitality catering at the Department of Health sites in London and Eurest Services provides the same services to Department of Work and Pensions, which includes the Quarry House site in Leeds where some Department of Health employees are based. Both Quadrant Catering and Eurest Services are part of Compass Group UK and Ireland, one of the UK's largest contract caterers.

The current catering and hospitality offer to the Department is based around healthier eating choices, although Compass Group UK and Ireland has a strong commitment to sourcing British produce as part of their corporate responsibility framework.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible usbspent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25488]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department sources its national press cuttings service via a framework agreement used by various Government Departments. Daily cuttings from the national press have been provided by Precise Media since 1 July 2007.

Prior to April 2010, regional press cuttings were sourced from Kantar Media Intelligence (formally known as TNS Media Intelligence) via a rolling agreement. Since April 2010, the regional press cuttings service has been provided by Precise Media.

The amount the Department has spent on both national and regional cuttings for each of the 12 months is provided in the following table:

Department of Health	*Monthly expenditure on press cuttings Services*[1] *(£)*
November 2009	16,591.42
December 2009	9,108.57
January 2010	9,837.85
February 2010	7,922.94
March 2010	15,809.35
April 2010	11,948.37
May 2010	10,093.69
June 2010	9,301.29
July 2010	8,509.91
August 2010	7,571.22
September 2010	6,912.60
October 2010	n/a
Total	113,607.23

n/a = not available

[1] All figures provided are exclusive of valued added tax (VAT) and are based on invoice date rather than payment date.

Information on the amount spent on press cuttings services incurred by non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the delivery of drug treatment services under his proposals for a public health service. [25446]

Anne Milton: We will publish proposals for helping people to recover from drug dependence and reducing the harms that drugs cause in our forthcoming Public Health White Paper, and Drugs strategy.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local investment in drug treatment services is maintained. [25447]

Anne Milton: Drug treatment services are commissioned by local partnerships of health, criminal justice and social care services, they fund drug treatment services from the centrally allocated Pooled Treatment Budget and their own funding sources. In 2010-11 around £200 million was allocated for drug treatment from local mainstream resources.

Oversight of the adequacy of spending to meet locally identified need is part of the role of the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to the pooled treatment budget for the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [25448]

Anne Milton: Direct central Government funding for community drug treatment is allocated through the pooled treatment budget (PTB).

For the past five years funding was allocated as follows:

	Adult	*Young people (£ million)*	*Total (£ million)*
2006-07	360.0	24.6	384.6
2007-08	373.3	24.7	398
2008-09	373.3	24.7	398
2009-10	381.3	24.7	406
2010-11	381.3	25.4	406.7

Central Government funding allocations for drug treatment in the next five years are yet to be agreed.

Food Standards Agency: Local Government

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of local authorities provided data to the Food Standards Agency for its survey on *(a)* imported foods return and *(b)* melamine testing results. [25313]

Anne Milton: Imported foods are checked by local authorities at the point of entry (sea and air ports) to the United Kingdom. Twenty-six ports made an imported food return to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) through the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System. These ports received a total of 417,867 consignments of both animal and non-animal origin food.

Reports have been provided by local authorities at four ports on melamine testing at point of entry. The FSA has received a further nine returns from in-land local authorities sampling for melamine. No results gave rise to any cause for concern.

General Practitioners: Lancashire

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were seen by out-of-hours services in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Rossendale and Darwen constituency in each of the last five years. [25364]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, my hon. Friend may wish to contact each primary care trust direct for more information.

Health: Males

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to assist GP consortia in commissioning health services to address poor health among men. [25248]

Mr Simon Burns: Consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices working with other health and care professionals will commission the great majority of national health service services for their patients. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will create an independent NHS Commissioning Board. The board will provide leadership for quality improvement through commissioning. This will include setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, in a way that promotes joint working across health, public health and social care.

Consortia will not be responsible for commissioning primary medical services, which will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board, but consortia will become increasingly influential in driving up the quality of general practice. The NHS Commissioning Board will also commission the other family health services of dentistry, community pharmacy and primary ophthalmic services, as well as national and regional specialised services and prison health services, but with the influence and involvement of consortia.

The NHS Commissioning Board, supported by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, will develop a commissioning outcomes framework so that there is clear, publicly available information on the quality of healthcare services commissioned by consortia, including patient experience, and their management of NHS resources. It would include measures to reflect the consortium's duties to promote equality and to assess progress in reducing health inequalities.

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps on public health he plans to take to reduce the mortality rate among men. [25250]

Anne Milton: We will publish a White Paper on public health later this year. This will set out the Government's plans for establishing a public health service and will also map a cross-Government strategy on public health that will be taken forward in the future.

Hemofil T: Clinical Trials

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients on the Hemofil T trial was classified as *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate and *(c)* severe haemophiliac. [26073]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information. Hemofil T was a commercial product, so the clinical trials would have been conducted by the manufacturer Hyland-Travenol (now Baxter Healthcare).

HIV Infection: Health Services

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for HIV and sexual health services under his proposals for a public health service; [25782]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of proposed reforms to the NHS on the commissioning of HIV services; [25785]

(3) with reference to the White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, whether HIV services will be commissioned by the National Commissioning Board or by GP consortia from 2013; [25787]

(4) whether the public health White Paper will include proposals to reduce the incidence of HIV. [25789]

Anne Milton: Later this year we will publish the public health White Paper which will set out the design of the new public health service for England. Consultation documents accompanying the White Paper will set out the proposed funding and commissioning routes for public health services, including proposals about how sexual health services might best be commissioned. The Department is also considering options for commissioning HIV treatment and care services including through the National Commissioning Board.

Medical Treatments

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what processes will be put in place to ensure the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services will take account of new innovations in medical technology. [25554]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Group for National Specialised Services uses a decision making framework when considering applications for designation of services and treatments as part of the arrangements for the national commissioning of highly specialised services. Stimulating research and innovation is included in the decision making framework. A copy of the decision making framework is available at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/doc/decision-making-framework-making-recommendations-on-national-commissioning

Mental Health Services

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that mental health trusts are subject to the same financial penalties and governance measures for emergency readmissions as other NHS trusts. [25253]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 6 September 2010, *Official Report,* column 264W, to the hon. Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Tracey Crouch).

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of mental health in-patients *(a)* are in single-sex wards and *(b)* have access to segregated toilet or bathing facilities. [25255]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. This means providing a same-sex sleeping area, bathroom and toilet facilities. In a mental health environment, accommodation should always be same sex.

The only acceptable justification for admitting a mental health patient to mixed-sex accommodation is in the event of a clinical emergency and this must be to an en-suite room. In such cases, a full risk-assessment must be carried out and complete safety, privacy and dignity maintained.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme to people with severe depression or anxiety; and if he will make a statement. [25256]

Paul Burstow: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is three years into a six-year nationwide roll-out. IAPT services are expected to be available to approximately 60% of the population by the end of March 2011. The services have already brought well over 77,000 people to recovery and 13,000 people treated have come off sick pay and benefits.

The spending review settlement is expected to complete the roll-out, with special emphasis on ensuring more older people get access to therapy and broadening the benefits to children and young people, and individuals with long-term physical health conditions and those with severe and enduring mental illness.

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to enable people using mental health services to choose their provider; and if he will make a statement. [25257]

Paul Burstow: To fulfil a commitment in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", we published a consultation document on Choice in the NHS on 18 October 2010. The document is called "Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control. A consultation on proposals", a copy of which has been placed in the Library, and instructions on how to submit responses can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_119651

There will be a presumption that everyone will have choice and control over their care and treatment, and choice of any willing provider, wherever relevant. The commitment for mental health is that the introduction of choice of treatment and provider in some mental health services will begin from April 2011, and that this be extended wherever practicable.

Midwives: Recruitment

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce his Department's plans to increase midwife recruitment and retention. [25349]

Anne Milton: We will continue to train midwives at current rates and we are considering ways of helping improve midwife recruitment and retention. By 2013 (subject to levels of attrition), we expect up to 400 additional midwives per annum to be completing training and available to enter the work force.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of making available treatment for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency throughout the NHS; [25151]

(2) whether he plans to respond to the on-line petition on the Downing Street website on the lack of awareness of chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency; and if he will make a statement; [25152]

(3) if he will publish his Department's assessment of the merits of making available treatment for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency in NHS facilities. [25157]

Paul Burstow: There are various theories of causation of multiple sclerosis (MS), one of which is the chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCVSI) theory proposed by Dr Paolo Zamboni, a vascular surgeon in Bologna, Italy. He has suggested that MS is due to a narrowing or blockage of the veins that drain blood from the brain. The narrowing restricts the normal outflow of blood from the brain, causing alterations in the blood flow patterns within the brain that eventually causes injury to brain tissue and degeneration of neurons. Dr Zamboni believes that endovascular surgery can restore blood flow in these vessels, which lessens the symptoms of MS.

Dr Zamboni's first study in a group of 65 MS patients and 235 controls used ultrasound to investigate a possible association between CCSVI and MS. The study showed that while non-MS patients had normal circulation in their veins, all of the MS patients had blockages. This led to a second phase of research, which looked at whether balloon angioplasty treatment, or stent placement, would improve the symptoms of MS in the group of 65 MS patients. Dr Zamboni reported various degrees of improvement in the group, mostly among patients with the relapsing-remitting form of MS who experienced fewer flare-ups of symptoms and some improvements in quality of life. The more pronounced secondary and primary progressive patients had limited improvement after six months, and none at 18 months.

Neurologists have outlined a number of limitations to Dr Zamboni's studies. The ultrasound phase of the study did not have its findings confirmed by another lab. Also, Zamboni theorised that narrowing veins caused increased deposition of iron in the brain. Iron deposition occurs in different neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease but CCSVI was not seen in the control group with neurological problems. In the second phase of the study, there was no control group who did not get the surgery and whose outcomes could be compared to the patients that did. It was not a "blinded" trial so the patients, and their doctors, all knew they had received the procedure, opening up the possibility of placebo effect. All the patients continued to take disease-modifying drugs, making it difficult to separate out what, if anything, improved their condition.

A larger, more recent, study at the University of Buffalo's Neuroimaging Analysis Centre looked at how often CCSVI occurs in people with MS and in people without MS. The study of 500 subjects showed that 56.4% of people with MS showed signs of CCSVI, while 26.4% of healthy test subjects also exhibited signs of CCSVI. The centre is in the process of recruiting for a placebo-controlled trial of intravascular treatment with angioplasty in 30 relapsing- remitting MS patients.

Venous stenosis due to developmental abnormalities was established as the primary cause of CCSVI by the International Union of Phlebology in its consensus document (published 2009), which provided guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of venous malformations.

MS campaigners have suggested that this means that CCSVI is almost certainly one of the causal factors of MS.

Dr Zamboni's hypothesis has generated considerable optimism among people with MS for more effective treatment options. However, it has been received with caution by many experts, who find it relies on limited data to support claims that the syndrome actually exists; that it could be causative of (or a co-factor in) multiple sclerosis and that vascular treatments for the syndrome would prevent or reduce the incidence of multiple sclerosis. Larger clinical trials will be required before the theory is more widely accepted by the medical community (the Buffalo study organisers have said that CCSVI requires further investigation).

In the meantime, the neurology community and MS organisations across the world are recommending that MS patients do not use the proposed treatment, until its effectiveness is confirmed by controlled studies.

The overall future of all e-petitions is bound into the Martha Lane Fox review, which will be announced imminently. We continue to issue responses to petitions that had exceeded the 500 signature threshold as of 6 April 2010, when the e-petitions system was suspended ahead of the 2010 general election.

The Department has made no assessment of the merits of making treatment for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCVSI) throughout the national health service.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of treatment for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency for patients with multiple sclerosis; and if he will make a statement; [25153]

(2) how much was spent on *(a)* facilities, *(b)* equipment and *(c)* research relating to the treatment of multiple sclerosis in each of the last five years. [25159]

Paul Burstow: Information on the expenditure on facilities and equipment for multiple sclerosis is not collected. Expenditure on research for multiple sclerosis is given in the following table:

	£ million
2005-06	0.8
2006-07	0.01
2007-08	0.8
2008-09	1.8
2009-10	2.1

We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of treatment for chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency for patients with multiple sclerosis.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which drugs were available in NHS facilities for the treatment of patients with multiple sclerosis in each of the last 10 years; and how much was spent on each type of drug in each such year. [25160]

Mr Simon Burns: Drugs for the treatment of multiple sclerosis are classified in the British National Formulary (BNF), section 8.2.4 "Other immunomodulating drugs" and include interferon beta (1a and 1b), glatiramer acetate and natalizumab. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) also licensed a herbal cannabis extract for the treatment of severe spasticity in multiple sclerosis in June 2010. Information on the use of these drugs in the community and in hospitals is in the following tables.

Table 1: Community—Net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescription items written in the United Kingdom or the Isle of Man and dispensed in the community, in England[1, 2]

					£000
	Herbal cannabis extract	*Glatiramer acetate*	*Interferon beta (1a and 1b)*	*Natalizumab*	*Total*
2000	—	—	7,487.10	—	7,487.10
2001	—	16.7	8,360.30	—	8,377.00
2002	—	127.2	10,505.60	—	10,632.80
2003	—	631.3	14,244.20	—	14,875.50
2004	0.0	1,418.90	16,411.10	—	17,830.10
2005	0.1	2,043.70	17,499.60	—	19,543.30
2006	265.6	2,311.90	16,507.90	—	19,085.40
2007	355.2	2,776.40	15,936.80	—	19,068.40
2008	416.2	3,341.50	17,957.20	—	21,714.90
2009	480.2	3,915.50	18,410.70	—	22,806.40

[1] '—' Indicates there were no prescriptions dispensed in the community.

[2] 0.0 indicates a NIC of less than £50.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis system.

Table 2: Hospital—Estimated cost of hospital usage in England[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

			£000
	Natalizumab	*Other drugs*	*Total*
2001	—	1,996.1	1,996.1
2002	—	2,403.5	2,403.5
2003	—	5,211.6	5,211.6
2004	—	8,065.2	8,065.2
2005	—	8,705.0	8,705.0
2006	—	10,355.8	10,355.8
2007	205.0	11,633.7	11,838.6
2008	3,374.8	13,026.1	16,400.9
2009	10,258.3	17,860.1	28,118.3

[1] Data on hospital use is not collected centrally by the national health service. However, the commercial company IMS Health collect data from a large sample of trusts and project these figures to give a national estimate.

[2] Figures are based on a sample and costed using standard price lists, either the Drug Tariff or, if the drug is not listed, the drug manufacturer's price list. The figures therefore do not necessarily represent the actual amounts paid by the hospitals.

[3] Data includes all drugs dispensed in NHS hospital regardless of patient, so will include drugs dispensed to private patients in private wards within NHS hospitals as long as they have been dispensed via the hospital pharmacy. The extent of this varies from hospital to hospital.

[4] Data are only held for complete years from 2001.

[5] The agreement with IMS Health under which the Department receives the data requires that it is not released for individual drugs unless they have been positively appraised by the National Institute for health and Clinical Excellence. Only natalizumab has been positively appraised, therefore combined figures for all the other drugs have been provided.

[6] May exclude medicines supplied as part of homecare arrangements.

Source:

IMS HEALTH: Hospital Pricing Audit Index database.

NHS Trusts: Private Finance Initiative

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many rebates were granted to each NHS trust by Private Finance Initiative contractors under the terms of their contracts in each of the last five years; what the monetary value of the rebate was in each case; and what loss of service gave rise to each rebate. [25761]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The National Audit Office (NAO) published a report in

June 2010 entitled "The Performance and management of hospital PFI contracts" which includes information on payment deductions for failure to meet contractual standards. This can be found at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/pfi_hospital_contracts.aspx

NHS: Negligence

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many compensation payments for clinical malpractice in each specialism including general practice were made by each primary care trust in each year since 2000; [25366]

(2) how much his Department has paid out in compensation payments for clinical malpractice in each specialism including general practice in respect of each primary care trust area in each year since 2000. [25369]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested was supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority and is in the document "Table of numbers of values of clinical negligence payments by primary care trusts from 2000 to 2010". A copy has been placed in the Library.

Nurses: Manpower

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to maintain the number of nursing staff. [25799]

Anne Milton: The precise numbers of national health service nurses required over the next five years will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

The Department has consulted on how the new organisations should be designed and is analysing responses. Information on how the new organisations should be designed will be announced in due course.

The Government have fulfilled their commitment to give the NHS a real terms increase in funding each year. The demands on the service are rising and to meet these the NHS must make up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014, by reducing bureaucracy and doing things differently. Every penny saved will be reinvested to support the delivery of quality healthcare.

The NHS will release up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014, which will be reinvested to support improvements in quality and outcomes. In addition, the Government will reduce NHS management costs by more than 45%, over the next four years, freeing up further resources for front-line care.

Prescription Drugs

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's cost per Quality-Adjusted Life Year (QALY) threshold is when appraising drugs likely to be prescribed to fewer than 500 NHS patients; and what methodology was used to adjust the standard cost per QALY threshold to take account of the unique costs associated with the development of drugs for such patient numbers. [25553]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) does not operate a fixed cost per Quality-Adjusted Life Year (QALY) threshold in developing its guidance. NICE's 'Guide to the methods of technology appraisal' explains how the cost per QALY is used by appraisal committees in the development of technology appraisal guidance and is available on the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/guidetothemethodsoftechnologyappraisal.jsp?domedia=l&mid=B52851A3-19B9-E0B5-D48284D172BD8459

NICE also issued supplementary advice to its appraisal committees in 2009 to clarify the circumstances in which it might be appropriate to recommend potentially life-extending treatments licensed for terminal illnesses affecting small numbers of patients that would not normally be recommended through the application of NICE's standard technology appraisal methods. The supplementary advice is available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/guidetothemethodsoftechnologyappraisal.jsp?domedia=l&mid=88ACDAE5-19B9-E0B5-D422589714A8EC6D

Radiotherapy

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group to publish its report on Radiosurgery; [25406]

(2) when he expects the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence to review the use of cyberknife robotic technology. [25407]

Paul Burstow: It is anticipated that the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group (NRIG) will publish its report into radiosurgery early next year.

As part of the report, NRIG has been tasked with reviewing the use of stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT). NRIG has examined the SBRT technologies on the market, including Cyberknife, and the evidence base for clinical indications in order to produce guidance for the role of SBRT in cancer treatment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) plans to use the work of NRIG to identify whether there are any indications that would be appropriate for them to evaluate further via the Medical Technologies Advisory Committee or other programmes at NICE.

Social Services

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to assess the effectiveness of local arrangements to promote joint working between health and social care arising from the funding provided in the comprehensive spending review. [25632]

Paul Burstow: In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. As part of this, the national health service will transfer some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will rise to £1 billion in 2014-15, and will promote improved joint working between the health and social care systems.

Further details will be set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12. £150 million in 2011-12 and £300 million in 2012-13 has been set aside for spending on re-ablement, which helps people to regain their independence after a crisis. For the remaining funding, we will set out specific allocations that they will transfer to local authorities for spending on social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. Primary care trusts and local authorities will need to work together to agree jointly appropriate areas for social care investment, with a shared analysis of need and a common agreement on the outcomes to be met. We will also expect them to monitor how this funding has been used, and report back to the Department.

Sodium Thiopental: Exports

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the difference between the requirements of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in respect of the proposed export of sodium thiopental to *(a)* Europe and *(b)* the US. [24302]

Anne Milton: The Treaty establishing the European Community prohibits import and export restrictions between all member states. Controls on the movement of goods within the internal market have been abolished since 1993 and the European Community is now a single territory without internal frontiers.

Medicines for human use are subject to an extensive European regulatory regime. Provided that a medicinal product complies with this regulatory regime for common standards and it has been authorised by a national medicines regulatory body like the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the United Kingdom or, the European Medicines Agency that can permit the simultaneous marketing of medicines across the whole of the European Community, the medicinal product may move freely around the European Community.

Medicines for human use that are marketed in the European Community can also be exported to a country outside of the European Community, provided that the export does not breach any European regulations prohibiting such an activity. It is considered that under these circumstances it is the responsibility of the non European Community country to control the legality of the medicinal product when imported into their country.

Spinal Injuries: Surgery

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many spinal procedures involving *(a)* discetomy, *(b)* decompression, *(c)* fusion, *(d)* total disc replacement, *(e)* endoscopic transforaminal surgery and *(f)* each other category of procedure for which information is available were carried out in NHS facilities in each of the last five years; what the (i) clinical outcomes, (ii) cost to the public purse of performing, (iii) cost of complications arising from and (iv) cost of litigation in connection with such procedures was in each such year; and what the cost to the public purse was of (A) chronic pain management and (B) cognitive behavioural therapy for patients who underwent such procedures in each such year. [25394]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information has been placed in the Library. Information on the cost of litigation by procedure is only available at disproportionate cost. Other information on outcomes and costs by procedure is not collected centrally.

Surgery

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of those operations cancelled for elective admissions since 1 April 2010 had been carried out on the latest date for which figures are available. [25350]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data on the total number of cancelled operations, or the date on which all patients whose operation had been cancelled, were treated.

The Department collects and publishes information on the number of elective operations that were cancelled at the last minute (on the day of admission or of operation), for non-clinical reasons. The Department also publishes information on the number of patients treated within 28 days of their operation being cancelled.

The latest data, published on 12 November 2010, show:

> that from April to September 2010 (quarters 1 and 2 2010-11), 26,236 elective operations were cancelled, compared to 27,505 in the same period in 2009-10.
>
> of the 26,236 cancellations, 97.1% of patients were treated within 28 days, compared to 96.8% in the same period in 2009-10.
>
> operations cancelled at the last minute represented 0.8% of all elective activity in quarters 1 and 2. This compares to 1.1% cancelled operations in the previous quarter (January to March 2010) and 0.8% in quarters 1 and 2 2009-10.

Cancellations at any stage can be inconvenient and stressful for patients. Focusing on operations cancelled at the last minute addresses cancellations that cause most distress to patients. It is the responsibility of individual hospitals to ensure that they have the necessary staff, theatre space and beds available to keep cancellations to an absolute minimum.

Tobacco: Crime

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated of the effects of the availability of illicit tobacco products on the incidence of (i) under age smoking and (ii) health conditions caused by contaminated illicit tobacco products; and if he will make a statement. [25221]

Anne Milton: No research has been commissioned by the Department into these specific questions. Officials monitor and utilise all available relevant research in their work to tackle the dangers to health from all forms of tobacco product.

The Department works closely with HM Revenue and Customs at all levels (international, national and local) in countering the availability of illicit tobacco.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Chris Bryant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of members of the peerage who would be eligible to vote in a referendum on the voting system solely by virtue of a business interest in the City of London under the proposal in clause 2(2) of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill. [25598]

Mr Harper: The Government have made no such estimate. The franchise for municipal elections in the City of London is a matter for the City of London Corporation.

Co-operative Bank

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what dates he has met the Co-operative Bank in November 2010. [25689]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Deputy Prime Minister publishes details of all official external meetings on a quarterly basis.

http://download.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/transparency/dpm-meetings.csv

Electoral Register

Chris Bryant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much each local authority in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* England has spent on the annual canvass for the electoral register in each of the last three years. [25419]

Mr Harper: The Government do not hold this information; however, the Electoral Administration Act 2006 provided powers for the Electoral Commission to request financial information from Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers across Great Britain. In June 2010, the Electoral Commission published a report, The Cost of Electoral Administration in Great Britain which provides details of data collected by the Commission. This can be accessed on the Electoral Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

It provides details of the spend by local authorities in *(a)* Scotland *(b)* Wales and *(c)* England on the annual canvass (where information has been provided) for 2007-8 and 2008-9.

Information on the 2009-10 financial year is not yet available, and was not collected in 2006-7.

Northern Ireland has had a system of individual electoral registration in place since 2002, and in 2006 the annual canvass was replaced with a system of 'continuous registration' based on data matching the electoral register against other public databases.

Fixed-term Parliaments

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will publish each representation he has received on the length of fixed-term Parliaments. [25866]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 306W on the matter of the length of fixed-term Parliaments. I also received several representations from those Members who took part in proceedings in Committee of the Whole House on the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill on 16 November. The hon. Member will appreciate it is not standard practice to publish correspondence from members of the public.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the length of fixed-term Parliaments. [25867]

Mr Harper: The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister meet regularly to discuss the current programme for Government, part of which is our programme of constitutional and political reform.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what his policy is on the body which should have responsibility for drawing up constituencies for elections to a reformed second chamber; [25864]

(2) what proposals he has for the electoral system to be used for elections to a reformed second chamber. [25869]

Mr Harper: The cross-party Committee on House of Lords reform, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, is considering all issues pertinent to reform of the House of Lords including the electoral system and constituencies to be used in elections to a reformed second chamber.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on the establishment of a wholly-elected second chamber. [25868]

Mr Harper: The cross-party Committee on House of Lords reform, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, will bring forward proposals for a wholly or mainly directly elected second chamber on the basis of proportional representation. The final composition of the reformed second chamber, and whether it is to be wholly or mainly elected, is yet to be determined.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received on the electoral system to be used in elections to a reformed second chamber. [25870]

Mr Harper: To date, the Deputy Prime Minister has received a number of representations from MPs, peers, members of the public and those with a professional or academic interest on the issue of House of Lords reform. Some representations have discussed the type of electoral system to be used in elections to a reformed second chamber.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the *(a)* electoral system for and *(b)* number of members of a reformed second chamber; [25871]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the body which will have responsibility for drawing up constituencies or regional areas for elections to any reformed second chamber. [25872]

Mr Harper: The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister meet regularly to discuss the current programme for Government, part of which is our programme of constitutional and political reform.

TREASURY

Arch Cru

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions has he had with the Financial Services Authority on the collapse of Arch Cru funds. [25461]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet members of the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of economic and financial issues. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such meetings.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the collapse of Arch Cru funds. [25462]

Mr Hoban: The Government have received correspondence regarding Arch Cru funds, but this is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), as the independent regulator, and Capita as the Authorised Corporate Director to pursue.

Bank Levy

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the (i) British Bankers Association and (ii) Investment Management Association to discuss (A) the proposed bank levy and (B) taxation of the financial services sector since May 2010; when each such meeting took place; and who was present at each such meeting; [25009]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the (i) Hedge Fund Association and (ii) Alternative Investment Management Association since his appointment to discuss the taxation of the financial services sector; when each such meeting took place; and who was present at each such meeting; [25051]

(3) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the banks which will be affected by the proposed bank levy since his appointment; when each such meeting took place; and who was present at each such meeting; [25054]

(4) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the Robin Hood Tax campaign to discuss (i) the proposed bank levy and (ii) taxation of the financial services sector since his appointment; when each such meeting took place; and who was present at each such meeting. [25057]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers have met with a wide range of interested parties to discuss various aspects of financial sector taxation since the formation of the Government.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from the banking sector on the bank balance sheet levy; and if he will make a statement. [25227]

Mr Hoban: The Government published Bank Levy: A Consultation on 13 July 2010, and invited the views of business, as well as the views of representative bodies and tax advisers on the design and implementation of the levy. The Government received a total of 48 responses on a wide range of issues. Details of the responses received, and a full list of respondents, were set out in Bank Levy: Consultation Response, published on 21 October, available at:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_bank_levy.htm

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue accruing to the public purse from the bank levy in each of the next four financial years; [25229]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the banking sector of the proposed changes to corporation tax in each of the next four financial years; [25230]

(3) what revenue he expects to accrue to the Exchequer from the bank levy in each of the next four financial years. [25237]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 722W.

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish his Department's assessment of the effects on growth, output and inflation of the Bank of England's asset purchase facility to date; [25231]

(2) what assessment his Department has made on the effects on growth, output and inflation of the Bank of England's asset purchase facility being extended by £50 billion. [25232]

Mr Hoban: Assessments of the asset purchase facility can be found in the Bank of England quarterly inflation reports. In particular, the May 2009 inflation report explains how quantitative easing works to impact the economy through various channels including higher money supply, lower long-term interest rates and rising asset prices. An assessment of the impact on asset prices, in particular on the gilt market, is made in the May 2010 inflation report which says:

> "asset purchases appear to be having a sizeable downward effect on gilt yields...equity and corporate bond prices have increased significantly since early 2009. That is likely, in part, to reflect the exceptional monetary stimulus".

The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has operational responsibility for monetary policy. It is the MPC which assesses and decides on the appropriate monetary policy stance in order to target 2% inflation, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer prices index (CPI). This includes decisions on the use of the asset purchase facility (APF) and any further extensions.

Child Benefit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households with a combined income of more than £44,000 per annum in which *(a)* one person and *(b)* no-one earns £44,000 or more per annum. [16769]

Mr Gauke: In 2010-11, the estimated numbers of households with a combined income of more than £44,000 per annum in which:

(a) at least one person has income of £44,000 or more per annum is 2.9 million (with median incomes of around £75,000).

(b) no one has income of £44,000 or more per annum is 2.5 million (with median incomes of around £50,000).

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* single and *(b)* multiple income households which will be affected by his proposed change to child benefit arrangements. [16771]

Mr Gauke: The proposed changes to child benefit arrangements in 2013 will affect around 200,000 single income households and 1.3 million multiple income households.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on single parents of his Department's proposed changes to child benefit. [16929]

Mr Gauke: Before making the decision to withdraw child benefit from households with a higher rate taxpayer, the Chancellor considered an equalities screening assessment for this measure, which included an estimate of the number of lone parent households affected by this measure.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing his Department's proposed changes to child benefit. [16930]

Mr Gauke: The preliminary indicative estimate for delivering the change to child benefit announced by the Chancellor on 4 October 2010 is £130 million over the four year spending review period.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of couples in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* region in respect of which one adult earns £44,000 or more and the other is not in paid employment. [16969]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* There are an estimated 560,000 couples in the United Kingdom in 2010-11 where one adult earns £44,000 or more and the other has no earnings.

This estimate is based on Family Resources Survey data projected to 2010-11. Earnings denotes income from employment including self-employment income. Reliable estimates are not available at parliamentary constituency or regional level due to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of single parents in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* region who earn £44,000 or more a year and who are in receipt of child benefit. [16970]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Information on the number of single parents with incomes of £44,000 or more a year and are in receipt of child benefit is not available at regional level as it is potentially disclosive.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of people in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* region who earn £44,000 or more a year and who are in receipt of child benefit. [16971]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

The numbers of families in each region where one member has income of £44,000 or more a year and where the family is in receipt of child benefit in 2010-11 is presented in the following table:

Families in each region where one member has income of £44,000 or more a year and where the family is in receipt of child benefit, 2010-11

Government office region	*Number*
North-east	40,000
North-west and Merseyside	90,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	70,000
East midlands	60,000
West midlands	90,000
Eastern	130,000
London	220,000
South-east	280,000
South-west	90,000
Country	
England	1,070,000
Wales	30,000
Scotland	100,000
Northern Ireland	20,000
United Kingdom	1,200,000

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dual income families with a household income between £43,875 and £87,750 are in receipt of child benefit. [17921]

Mr Gauke: There are estimated to be around 1.6 million dual income families with a household income of between £43,875 and £87,750 and in receipt of child benefit in 2010-11. Within these 1.6 million dual income families it is estimated that 640,000 have a higher rate taxpayer.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he estimates the Government will save as a result of *(a)* non-indexation of and *(b)* changes to entitlement to child benefit in each year of the 2010 spending review period. [20809]

Mr Gauke: The amount that will be saved from freezing child benefit for three years and removing it from higher rate taxpayers is shown in the following table:

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Freezing child benefit for three years from 2011-12	365	695	940	975
Removing child benefit from households with a higher rate taxpayer	0	590	2,420	2,500
Total	365	1,285	3,360	3,475

Pat Glass: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the UK which will be affected by the withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer. [20842]

Mr Gauke: The number of households affected by the withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer in 2013:

(a) in the north-east is estimated to be around 50,000

(b) in the UK is estimated to be around 1.5 million.

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women who are *(a)* basic rate taxpayers and *(b)* non-earners will no longer receive child benefit as a result of proposed changes to the eligibility criteria. [20857]

Mr Gauke: Women will only stop receiving child benefit if another member of their household is a higher rate taxpayer and the family chooses to cease their child benefit claim. All other mothers in such households will continue to receive child benefit with the relevant monies recovered via the income tax system.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the principle of independent taxation will apply to his proposed changes to child benefit arrangements. [21395]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The withdrawal of child benefit from families containing a higher rate taxpayer will not affect the principle of independent taxation.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make an estimate of the monetary value of a child benefit payment to a household of a couple who live together with two children in which the mother pays income tax at the basic rate and the father pays income tax at the higher rate under the reforms proposed in the spending review; [21396]

(2) if he will make an estimate of the monetary value of a child benefit payment to a household of two children with parents who are a couple who live apart in respect of which the mother pays income tax at the basic rate and the father pays income tax at the higher rate under the reforms proposed in the spending review; [21397]

(3) if he will make an estimate of the monetary value of a child benefit payment to a mother who pays income tax at the basic rate who has two children whose father pays income tax at the higher rate and is no longer part of a couple with their mother under the reforms proposed in the spending review; [21398]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* From January 2013, child benefit will be withdrawn from families with a higher rate taxpayer so that people on lower incomes are not subsidising those who are better off. It is not fair to expect those earning £15,000 or £30,000 to go on paying the child benefit of those earning £50,000 or £100,000.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to implement his proposal to withdraw eligibility for child benefit for households which include a higher rate taxpayer; [21568]

(2) what timetable he has set for the introduction of restrictions on the payment of child benefit to households with one or more higher rate taxpayers; [21569]

(3) by what mechanism he plans to enforce the ending of child benefit payments to households with one or more higher rate taxpayers; [21570]

(4) whether he plans to identify those households with one or more higher rate taxpayers which are in receipt of child benefit by requiring them to self-certify. [21571]

Mr Gauke: The policy to withdraw child benefit from families containing a higher rate taxpayer will be introduced from January 2013 and will be administered through the tax system using existing systems and processes.

It will be the responsibility of the higher rate taxpayer to inform HMRC whether their household is in receipt of child benefit. In line with the normal administration of tax, HMRC has enforcement powers in the case of non-disclosure of information relevant to a person's tax affairs, including penalties.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the average change in household income of a family with children as a result of *(a)* maintaining child benefit at the current level and *(b)* withdrawal of the Child Trust Fund scheme. [23680]

Mr Gauke: In 2011-12 average household income of a family with children will fall by approximately £47 per year as a result of the freeze in the level of child benefit.

The Child Trust Fund (CTF) scheme is not being withdrawn. While eligibility for CTFs will cease from January 2011, existing CTF accounts will continue to benefit from tax-free investment growth and any contributions from the child's family and friends. No withdrawals will be possible until the child reaches age 18. As the first CTF child will not reach age 18 until 2020 the changes to the CTF scheme will have no impact on the average household income of a family with children.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many single income families with an annual household income between *(a)* £50,000 and £87,749, *(b)* £87,750 and £249,999, *(c)* £250,000 and £499,999 and *(d)* £500,000 and £1,000,000 are in receipt of child benefit. [25420]

Mr Gauke: There are estimated to be around 80,000 single income households with a household income between £50,000 and £87,749 and around 30,000 with incomes between £87,750 and £249,999.

Estimates for single income households with incomes in the remaining groups are not available due to small sample sizes.

Child Benefit: Chester

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in City of Chester constituency claim child benefit; and how many such households include a higher rate taxpayer. [17320]

Mr Gauke: The information requested on the number of households in City of Chester constituency can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

This information is based on a snapshot as at August 2009 of all child benefit claims.

The information on how many of these households contain a higher rate taxpayer is not available.

Child Benefit: Databases

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of *(a)* creating and *(b)* maintaining a new child benefit database to match data on mothers with data of their partner's income. [22660]

Mr Gauke: From January 2013, child benefit will be withdrawn by HMRC from the higher rate taxpayer using existing PAYE and SA systems, which avoids additional systems being developed. The implementation of this policy requires only modest changes to existing IT systems. We do not envisage the need for any significant additional IT to support this policy.

Child Benefit: Females

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of those in receipt of child benefit in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England are female. [24470]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the estimated percentage of child benefit recipients who were female as at August 2009.

	Female child benefit recipients (%)
Newcastle Upon Tyne North	94
North East	94
England	91

Child Benefit: Scotland

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency, *(b)* Aberdeen local authority and *(c)* Scotland which will be affected by the withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer. [19451]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level or local authority level.

The number of families in Scotland that will be affected by the withdrawal of child benefit from higher-rate taxpayers from January 2013 is estimated to be around 120,000.

Child Poverty: Comprehensive Spending Review

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is for his assessment of the effect of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on child poverty. [21614]

Mr Gauke: There is no measurable impact on child poverty from all modelled spending review changes up to 2012-13. Not all measures could be reliably modelled due to data constraints. Details of the measures considered in Treasury analysis on child poverty were published in "Spending Review 2010: Distributional Impact Analysis-Data Sources".

Corporation Tax: Third Sector

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was collected in corporation tax from *(a)* social enterprises and *(b)* community interest companies in 2009-10. [20459]

Mr Gauke: Information on the amount of revenue which was collected from corporation tax paid by *(a)* social enterprises and *(b)* community interest companies in 2009-10 is not available.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25534]

Justine Greening: Meat, dairy and other food products are provided to HM Treasury staff under a facilities management contract. There is no specific policy or guideline on food procurement in general or for specific functions. However, HM Treasury encourages the facilities management provider to support UK produce wherever commercially viable and when available.

Departmental Manpower

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median age of staff in his Department was on the latest date for which figures are available. [25745]

Justine Greening: The mean and the median ages of staff who work in HM Treasury are 35.8 and 32 respectively.

The latest date for the information used to calculate this information is 1 October 2010.

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of his Department are aged between *(a)* 21 and 30, *(b)* 31 and 40, *(c)* 41 and 50 and *(d)* 51 and 60. [25750]

Justine Greening: The number of staff within HM Treasury aged *(a)* 20 to 29, *(b)* 30 to 39, *(c)* 40 to 49, *(d)* 50 to 59 and *(e)* 60+ are listed in the following table.

Age band of staff	*Total*
20-29	463
30-39	426
40-49	234
50-59	158
60+	21

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual turnover of staff in his Department was in each of the last five years. [25753]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury staff turnover for each of the five years is as follows:

	Percentage
2009-10	21.4
2008-09	22.4
2007-08	38.3
2006-07	24.6
2005-06	25.6

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual expenditure on vehicles of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible in each region of England was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is in each case for 2010-11. [12451]

Justine Greening: No vehicles have been purchased in the past three years by the Treasury or any of its agencies or non-departmental bodies. There are no plans for spending on vehicles in 2010-11.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [25025]

Justine Greening: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has lead responsibility for the Post Office and takes a proactive approach alongside Post Office Ltd in seeking commercial opportunities with Government Departments. As part of the spending review HM Treasury published proposals emerging from joint work with the Cabinet Office's Efficiency and Reform Group which, alongside digital means, proposed using the Post Office increasingly as a front office for Government.

Excise Duties: Tobacco

Julie Hilling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the EU Cooperation Agreement (EUCA) signed by British American Tobacco to reduce the illicit trade in tobacco; what steps the Government is taking to support the EUCA; and if he will make a statement. [25222]

Justine Greening: The UK became signatories to the co-operation agreement with British American Tobacco (BAT) in July.

The agreement is one of a series of agreements between the EU and multi-national tobacco companies which the UK has also signed. The agreements complement existing legislation that requires all tobacco manufacturers to prevent smuggling through careful control of their supply chains. Responsibility for implementing the agreements rests with HMRC who are in regular contact with the European Commission.

The agreements will facilitate better control over tobacco smuggling with enhanced co-operation from other member states as a result of better working relationships with EU partners. They will also hold the tobacco manufacturers accountable for their actions and encourage responsible trade by requiring the manufacturers to make substantial annual payments to the EU and participating member states over a period of years and to put in place measures to control the supply and distribution of their products.

The BAT agreement sets out the steps that the company are required to take in order to control the supply chain for their products. It also requires them to make supplemental payments to member states if their product is found smuggled to have been smuggled in significant volumes. Seizures made in the UK which qualify are notified to the European Commission by HMRC for this purpose.

These agreements are an important step forward in the fight against tobacco smuggling. Signing them sends a clear and consistent signal that we are working in step with the EU, other member states and tobacco manufacturers to tackle the illicit trade in tobacco products.

Housing Benefit

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of using the consumer price index rather than the retail price index for calculation of local housing allowance for two years only from 2013-14. [23102]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The June 2010 Budget announced that the consumer prices index will be used to uprate local housing allowance rates from 2013-14. This replaces the existing system where rent officers determine the LHA rates on a monthly basis using a list of rents created for each category of property within every broad rental market area (BRMA).

Our policy is designed to ensure that increases in housing benefit are more in line with the rent increases that would be affordable to families who do not claim benefits.

CPI indexation of LHA rates has been estimated to save £390 million per annum by 2014-15 relative to the current system. No separate estimate has been made of the cost of uprating LHA rates by CPI compared to using the retail prices index (RPI) as the measure of inflation because it is not Government policy to uprate LHA rates by RPI.

Housing: Floods

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the revenue which will accrue to the Exchequer as a result of the proposed levy on home owners in areas of significant risk of flood in each of the next four financial years; and if he will make a statement; [25245]

(2) what plans he has for a levy on homeowners in areas of significant risk of flood; and if he will make a statement. [25246]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has no plans to introduce a levy on home owners in areas at risk of flooding and therefore has no estimates of the revenue that would accrue to the Exchequer from such a levy.

Import Duties: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on economic growth in the UK of a reduction in agricultural tariffs as a result of the World Trade Organisation's Doha round negotiations. [25247]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The agricultural element of the Doha Development Agenda cannot be seen in isolation of the other areas under negotiation in the Doha round. A Doha deal would include new agricultural and industrial market access, increased transparency and security in services, and an improvement of the global trade rule book. It would increase UK prosperity, give the global economy a boost, and lift millions of people around the world out of poverty. To UK businesses in agriculture, like in other sectors, it would offer new export opportunities, provide cheaper inputs, reduce non-tariff barriers, and simplify bureaucratic trade procedures making it easier to do business around the world. To consumers, it would provide lower prices (especially of food), greater variety of products, and increased competition in the supply of goods and services. Globally, the benefits are estimated at £110 billion annually, with the UK gaining in the range of £3 billion every year in additional national income.

Incentives

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs plans to pay in staff bonuses and other awards in addition to salary in 2010-11; and to how many staff in each role it expects to make such payment. [18266]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* In line with the pay award agreed with HM Treasury and the departmental trade unions, HMRC made performance award payments to staff in June 2010 relating to performance in the appraisal year 2009-10. HMRC also makes in-year payments under its recognition bonus scheme.

HMRC expects the amounts paid out and the number of staff in receipt of these awards in 2010-11 to be of similar magnitude to 2009-10. These bonuses are dependent on staff performance.

HMRC does not hold any bonus data by role.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on *(a)* hospitality, *(b)* entertainment, *(c)* promotional materials, *(d)* sponsorships and *(e)* advertising in each media outlet in each of the last three years. [18267]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The spend by HM Revenue and Customs is provided as follows. All figures exclude VAT.

			£
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Hospitality/ entertainment[1]			
Total	97,396.66	93,209	88,994
Sponsorship			
Total	0	0	542,034
Advertising by each media outlet[2]			
Press	2,075,124	3,453,236	2,942,746
TV	1,603,361	3,333,820	1,339,945
Radio	4,106,193	3,970,579	3,062,948
Posters	822,671	1,585,823	656,710
Online	1,457,8691	1,430,810	1,180,706

[1] The majority of spend on hospitality and entertainment relates to the provision of beverages at meetings and for visitors. We have provided the total spend for hospitality and entertainment for each of the last three years.

[2] Figures do not include production, miscellaneous or Central Office for Information fee costs.

The total spend on promotional materials is not available. No central record is held and it cannot be disaggregated from other spend, except at disproportionate cost.

Individual Savings Accounts

Jake Berry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals to allow Alternative Investment Market shares to be held in individual savings accounts. [25261]

Mr Hoban: ISAs are the Government's main non-pensions savings incentive, and are held by 20 million adults. The Government believe that ISAs are a trusted brand, and that it is important that this is maintained. The Government also believe that ISAs should be mainstream savings products. The Government therefore do not intend to allow shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM)—which can be riskier and less liquid—to be qualifying investments for ISAs. It is already the case that companies listed on AIM may benefit from other incentive schemes, such as investments made through the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 6 October with regard to Ms P J Davis. [25880]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 16 August with regard to Mr A Ramsden. [25881]

Mr Hoban: I replied to the right hon. Member on 13 October.

Monetary Policy

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects of *(a)* quantitative easing and *(b)* credit expansion in excess of real savings on the structure of (i) relative prices and (ii) macroeconomic aggregates. [25296]

Mr Hoban: The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has operational responsibility for monetary policy. The MPC decides on use of measures, including the asset purchase facility (APF), in order to target 2% inflation, as measured by the 12-month change in the consumer prices index (CPI).

Assessments of quantitative easing can be found in the Bank of England quarterly inflation reports. In particular, the May 2009 inflation report explains how quantitative easing works to impact the economy through various channels including higher money supply, lower long-term interest rates and rising asset prices. An assessment of the impact on asset prices, in particular on the gilt market, is made in the May 2010 inflation report which says:

> "asset purchases appear to be having a sizeable downward effect on gilt yields...equity and corporate bond prices have increased significantly since early 2009. That is likely, in part, to reflect the exceptional monetary stimulus".

The Government have announced the interim Financial Policy Committee (FPC) at the Bank of England will be created this autumn. It will be responsible for looking at risks across the financial system as a whole and how financial markets interact with the wider economy. The Bank of England half-yearly financial stability reports will continue to capture such analysis.

PAYE

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in each parliamentary constituency who have *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid tax as a result of recent miscalculations of tax liability made by HM Revenue and Customs in the PAYE system. [15456]

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Coventry South constituency HM Revenue and Customs has asked to make additional PAYE tax payments as a result of the recent recalculation of PAYE liabilities; and what the average repayment requested is. [15749]

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people residing in *(a)* Streatham constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Lambeth and *(c)* London have (i) overpaid and (ii) underpaid tax as a result of miscalculations of tax liabilities in the PAYE system as identified in the most recent PAYE reconciliation process. [15685]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as HMRC's national insurance and PAYE system does not hold data in relation to parliamentary constituencies, boroughs or regions.

Personal Income

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over 50 years of age resident in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England he expects to experience a reduction in annual income as a result of the comprehensive spending review. [24471]

Mr Gauke: The effect of the spending review at an individual level will be determined by how a household allocates its resources. As different households allocate their resources in different ways and as data on allocation is not available, any analysis using arbitrary assumptions would not be robust. As such it is not possible to provide this information. However, detail at a household level of the impacts of spending review and the fiscal consolidation as a whole are presented in Annex B of the Spending Review.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many working households in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England he expects to experience a reduction in annual income as a result of the comprehensive spending review; [24473]

(2) how many single parent families resident in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England he expects to experience a reduction in annual income as a result of the comprehensive spending review. [24474]

Mr Gauke: At the June Budget and spending review, this Government have taken the unprecedented step of publishing detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of its decisions for the first time—see for example charts B.4 and B.5 in Annex B of the spending review. This analysis shows that, when Budget and spending review measures are taken together, it is the top decile that contributes most to the fiscal consolidation, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of net income.

Further detail of the methodology used to produce these estimates is provided in the Data Sources document accompanying the Spending Review.

Public Expenditure

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effects of changes announced in the *(a)* June 2010 Budget and *(b)* the 2010 spending review on the incomes of (i) families with children, (ii) pensioners, (iii) couples without children and (iv) single person households. [21760]

Mr Gauke: At the June Budget and spending review, this Government have taken the unprecedented step of publishing detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of their decision for the first time—see for instance charts B.4, B.5 and B.6 in annex B of the 'Spending Review 2010' document. This analysis shows that, when Budget and spending review measures are taken together, it is clear that the top decile contributes the most to the fiscal consolidation, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of net income.

The Government have taken action in the June Budget and this spending review to help low-income families. For example, increasing the child element of tax credits by £180 next year and a further £110 the year after. These steps have ensured that there is no measurable impact on child poverty from all modelled measures to 2012-13.

Estimates of the impact of the June 2010 Budget and 2010 spending review on net household income by household type for 2012-13 can be found in the following table. The methodology used to produce these estimates is consistent with the one used in charts B.4 and B.5 in annex B of the 'Spending Review 2010' document (see 'Spending Review 2010 Distributional Impact Analysis—Data Sources' document for further detail).

Impact of measures as a per cent of net income by household type, 2012-13

		Percentage
Household type	*Budget*[1]	*Spending review*
Single	-0.62	-0.03
Couple without children	-0.52	-0.02
Couple with children	-1.30	-0.32
One-parent families	-0.96	0.27
Pensioners	-0.52	-0.23

[1] Including impact of indirect measures

Source:

HM Treasury tax and benefit micro-simulation model

Revenue and Customs: Databases

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential effects of combining the child benefit and child tax credit systems on *(a)* administrative costs and *(b)* levels of administrative error. [23662]

Mr Gauke: The Government consider a range of options when formulating policy. The Chancellor announced that child benefit will be withdrawn from families containing a higher rate taxpayer from January 2013. This can be delivered within existing PAYE and self-assessment systems, avoiding the need for new systems to be developed.

Revenue and Customs: Dismissal

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time employees of each (i) grade, (ii) sex and (iii) ethnicity HM Revenue and Customs has dismissed in each of the last five years. [21958]

Mr Gauke: The information requested has been deposited in the Library.

Revenue and Customs: Expenditure

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on compliance activities in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much it plans to spend on such activities in 2010-11. [23866]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* It is not possible to estimate the total spent on compliance activities. However, HMRC total pay bill costs for the main directorates involved in compliance activity are:

	£ million
2008-09	1,128
2009-10	1,079
2010-11 forecast	1,046

The Government also announced that £900 million will be made available over the spending review period, to enable HMRC to step up its activity in tackling evasion, avoidance and fraud to bring in £7 billion additional revenue year by 2014-15. Reducing tax loss, whether it stems from misunderstanding or deliberate evasion, is a key priority for this Government and HMRC are determined to relentlessly pursue those who bend or break the rules.

Revenue and Customs: Finance

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs is to receive additional funding as a result of the comprehensive spending review. [25346]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is not receiving additional funding as a result of the spending review settlement. They are making savings of 25% (including a 33% saving in administration spending) and then reinvesting £900 million in tackling non-compliance in the tax system in order to bring in an additional £7 billion in tax revenues by 2014-15.

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effects he expects the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review to have on his Department's funding for HM Revenue and Customs in each year of the spending review period. [25347]

Mr Gauke: The outcome of the spending review is that HMRC will be required to make savings of 25% in real terms on a straight line basis over the next four years and that they will re-invest £900 million to tackle non-compliance in the tax system.

The overall net effect is a real terms reduction of about 15%.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average waiting time was for a caller to the tax credit helpline whose call was permitted to be put on hold in each week in *(a)* July and *(b)* August 2010; [24592]

(2) how many calls were *(a)* received, *(b)* answered and *(c)* abandoned or cut off by the tax credit helpline in each week in (i) July and (ii) August 2010. [24593]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is in the following table:

Week commencing [1]	*Callers* [2]	*Calls attempts received* [3]	*Calls answered* [4]	*Calls abandoned* [5]	*Calls cut off* [6]	*Average waiting time (mm:ss)* [7]
27 June 2010	630,515	1,195,474	634,643	151,083	398,057	03:46
4 July 2010	699,874	1,416,804	693,483	141,485	539,197	04:28
11 July 2010	685,908	1,339,25&	683,885	127,912	550,900	04:20
18 July 2010	756,705	1,596,414	701,884	150,553	742,420	05:23
25 July 2010	1,323,210	6,125,931	1,061,920	292,099	3,055,710	10:47
1 August 2010	761,693	2,372,392	500,639	210,788	1,636,025	08:44
8 August 2010	589,156	1,695,307	430,156	213,580	1,040,832	09:08
15 August 2010	922,408	4,127,496	545,290	125,217	3,435,226	09:39
22 August 2010	938,167	3,578,722	555,291	159,401	2,829,593	09:55
29 August 2010	729,110	2,579,750	443,763	115,498	1,998,847	08:36

[1] Week commencing—Calculated within HMRC business results from Sunday to Saturday.

[2] Callers—The number of individual callers telephoning on each individual day.

[3] Call attempts received—The number of attempts (including redials) made to the tax credit helpline.

[4] Calls answered—The number of calls handled by advisers and by automated message.

[5] Calls abandoned—The number of calls abandoned after a customer has selected an option from the call steering menu.

[6] Calls cut off—The number of calls unable to enter call steering menu/queue as the queue is full and a busy message is played.

[7] Average speed to answer—The time taken from when a customer selects an option from the call steering menu to when the call is connected to an adviser.

Customer demand on HMRC's telephone helplines fluctuates significantly during the year, with demand peaks around key tax year deadlines. There are significant peaks in demand on the tax credits helpline in July for renewals and in August as customers who have had their payments terminated call to re-instate their awards. Performance therefore tends to be lower in this period than at other times of the year although HMRC switches advisers between helplines to manage this peak.

During peak periods, callers who cannot get through on their first attempt often use the redial facility on their telephone to make numerous successive calls which rapidly increases the number and proportion of unanswered calls. In addition, a combination of factors including increases in the number of renewals packs and termination notices issued has significantly increased demand on the tax credits helpline this year.

Performance on the tax credit helpline has significantly improved in recent weeks.

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many calls were *(a)* received, *(b)* answered and *(c)* abandoned or cut off by the child benefit helpline in each week in (i) July and (ii) August 2010; [24594]

(2) what the average waiting time was for a caller to the child benefit helpline whose call was permitted to be put on hold in each week in *(a)* July and *(b)* August 2010. [24591]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is in the following table:

Week commencing [1]	*Callers* [2]	*Calls attempts received* [3]	*Calls answered* [4]	*Calls abandoned* [5]	*Calls cut off* [6]	*Average waiting time (mm:ss)* [7]
27 June 2010	94,815	151,581	84,987	26,287	39,684	04:54
4 July 2010	109,924	215,593	88,653	25,902	100,530	05:34
11 July 2010	102,474	184,675	88,532	23,943	71,682	05:19
18 July 2010	96,877	145,942	86,333	24,708	33,883	05:09
25 July 2010	104,407	179,211	85,310	24,058	64,897	05:39
1 August 2010	102,567	174,596	82,330	25,870	63,244	05:39
8 August 2010	93,851	131,184	87,753	21,495	19,360	04:30
15 August 2010	102,708	151,793	90,221	25,062	28,986	04:55
22 August 2010	112,434	158,252	104,726	27,032	21,658	04:52
29 August 2010	122,802	294,867	85,353	26,153	181,913	06:51

[1] Week commencing—Calculated within HMRC business results from Sunday to Saturday.

[2] Callers—The number of individual callers who telephoned on each individual day.

[3] Call attempts received—The number of attempts (including redials) made to the child benefit helpline.

[4] Calls answered—The number of calls handled by advisers and by automated message.

[5] Calls abandoned—The number of calls abandoned after a customer has selected an option from the call steering menu.

[6] Calls cut off—The number of calls unable to enter call steering menu/queue as the queue is full and a busy message is played.

[7] Average speed to answer—The time taken from when a customer selects an option from the call steering menu to when the call is connected to an adviser.

Customer demand on HMRC's telephone helplines fluctuates significantly during the year, with demand peaks around key tax year deadlines. There is a particular peak in demand in July and August connected with tax credits renewals and terminations and HMRC switches advisers between helplines to help manage this peak. Performance across all of HMRC's helplines, including child benefit, therefore tends to be lower in this period than at other times of the year.

Performance on the child benefit helpline has significantly improved in recent weeks.

Mr Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 287-8W, on Revenue and Customs: Christchurch, if he will provide a telephone number for the inquiry centre at Holland House, Bournemouth so that customers can arrange appointments for advice on their tax affairs by telephone. [24693]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* The helpline number for the Bournemouth area, including Christchurch, is 0845 300 0627 and customers can make appointments at the inquiry centre using this number. HMRC's helpline numbers are available on their website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

or in telephone directories. To help resolve their inquiries as efficiently as possible, customers should call the helpline number that is most relevant to their query.

Tax Allowances

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of tax reliefs other than those relating to pension savings. [25831]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs publishes a list showing the annual cost of the principal tax expenditures and structural reliefs on its website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

The Office of Tax Simplification has been asked to carry out a review of all tax reliefs by Budget 2011, identifying changes that can be made to simplify the tax system.

On 8 November 2010 the Office of Tax Simplification published a list of all tax reliefs and its proposed approach to the review. The Government will carefully consider the recommendations from the review in due course.

Tax Allowances: Breweries

Dr Poulter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the merits of placing time limits on the tax relief offered to micro-breweries. [25081]

Justine Greening: The Treasury keeps all tax reliefs under review. Small breweries relief provides duty relief to micro and small breweries producing up to 60,000 hectolitres per annum. Decisions about tax policy are a matter for the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the likely monetary value of tax subsidies in respect of pension savings in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2012, *(c)* 2013, *(d)* 2014 and *(e)* 2015. [25830]

Mr Hoban: Total pensions tax relief for 2001-02 was around £17 billion (gross) rising to over £28 billion in 2009-10. No estimates or forecasts are published beyond this date.

HM Revenue and Customs publish pensions tax relief statistics which are available from the HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-9.pdf

Tax Avoidance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding his Department has allocated to reducing the level of tax avoidance by higher rate taxpayers in each financial year since 1997. [20890]

Mr Gauke: Neither HMRC nor its preceding departments have allocated funding in accordance with the criteria set out in the question.

This Government are committed to tackling avoidance and intend to build in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and to review areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes. As part of the HMRC spending review settlement we announced that £900 million will be made available over the spending review period to enable HMRC to step up its activity in tackling evasion, avoidance and fraud. We are also considering whether there is a case for developing a general anti avoidance rule (GAAR) for the UK. Alongside this we will continue to use intelligence obtained from the disclosure of tax avoidance schemes regime and other sources to detect avoidance schemes early and we will challenge avoidance robustly where we find it.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on its proposals for an alternative dispute resolution system; and what his policy is on encouraging the resolution of disputes on tax avoidance out of court. [24420]

Mr Gauke: The vast majority of tax disputes are resolved by agreement between HMRC and the taxpayer, rather than through the courts, as the most cost effective way of ensuring that tax due under the law is established and paid. HMRC is currently exploring whether use of a third party mediator would facilitate such agreements in certain cases. HMRC's approach for bringing tax disputes to a conclusion, whether by agreement with the taxpayer, or through the courts, is set out in its published Litigation and Settlement Strategy. This applies to all cases where criminal prosecution is not being pursued. HMRC's approach under this Strategy is always to seek agreed terms for settlement before going to litigation. In avoidance cases where HMRC has a strong case, it will not settle for less than 100% of the tax due.

Tax Avoidance and Evasion

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to establish new units within his Department to tackle tax avoidance and evasion. [25387]

Mr Gauke: The Government confirmed their commitment to reducing tax losses from avoidance and evasion when they announced £900 million would be made available over the spending review period to reduce avoidance, evasion and fraud.

The spending review proposed a new team to crack down on offshore evasion and more resources for the prevention of tobacco and alcohol fraud. It will also provide resources to tackle high risk areas, including extending the provision of dedicated tax experts to deal with large businesses. Business plans are being prepared for spring publication.

Taxation: Banks

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Exchequer has received from UK banks through each taxation stream since 1983. [23258]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* The specific data requested are not available.

Corporation tax, PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs, VAT and BPT will account for a large part of total tax paid by banks.

HMRC produce a breakdown by broad industrial sector for corporation tax and PAYE income tax and class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) and value added tax (VAT). These breakdowns include the financial services sector rather than banks specifically. Receipts from UK banks will make up part of the financial services sector.

Historical figures for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors are regularly updated and published in table 11.1, on the HMRC National Statistics website. These include financial services excluding life assurance receipts. Data are available back to 1997-98 only. The sectors are defined by HMRC's summary trade classifications. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs received by HMRC from companies in the financial sector in respect of employee and employer liabilities are:

Financial sector receipts	*£ billion*
1999-2000	12.3
2000-01	15.5
2001-02	15.6
2002-03	15.5
2003-04	17.1
2004-05	18.9
2005-06	21.2
2006-07	24.5
2007-08	263
2008-09	22.9
2009-10	24.5

Data are available back to 1999-2000 only. The sectors are defined by the Office for National Statistics' standard industrial classification 2003.

Declared VAT is published by trade group in the VAT factsheet, table 2.3

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

These figures constitute net VAT declared by the financial services sector accrued on non-exempt activity within that sector. Archived factsheets provide figures for earlier years

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factarchive&factcategory=8

Given that sectors for corporation tax and VAT and PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs are defined differently these sets of figures are not directly comparable.

HMRC collected £3.45 billion of gross receipts in 2009-10 from the temporary bank payroll tax on bonuses greater than £25,000. This tax included both UK and non-UK owned banks. It is estimated that the net yield was £2.3 billion. In line with the general methodology set out in June Budget policy costings document, the net yield takes account of all direct behavioural effects of a measure on the tax base itself (in this case the tax base for the bank payroll tax) or closely associated receipts (in this case receipts from income tax and national insurance contributions).

Taxation: Business

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 October, *Official Report*, column 144W, on BP: tax allowances, for what reasons it is inappropriate for Government to comment on the tax affairs of individual businesses. [24195]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The tax information of individual businesses held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is subject through legislation to a strict duty of confidentiality and therefore the tax position of individual businesses cannot be disclosed by HMRC to any third parties including Government Ministers.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have had outstanding tax liability of more than £100 million forgiven by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value was of the liability forgiven by HMRC in each such year. [24531]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Summary details of Revenue losses (write-offs and remissions) where in individual cases the amount exceeds £10 million—including those where the individual loss exceeded £100 million—are set out each year in HMRC's published consolidated accounts as is the total figure for all losses in each year. The accounts are laid before the House annually and are also available on the HMRC website :

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Taxation: Construction

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information HM Revenue and Customs holds on the number of small businesses which have had their C1S6 Gross Status Certificate withdrawn in each of the last three calendar years. [18558]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* It is not possible to analyse with any degree of accuracy those subcontractors whose gross payment status has been was withdrawn by reference to the size of their business.

Taxation: Land

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to commission research on the merits of introducing a land value levy. [25144]

Mr Gauke: Land value tax has been the subject of considerable previous research, for example see:

http://www.lyonsinquiry.org.uk

There are no plans to commission further research, but the Government keep all taxes under review.

VAT: Sixth Form Education

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons *(a)* sixth form colleges, *(b)* schools with sixth forms and *(c)* academies are not liable to pay value added tax; and whether he plans to review such tax arrangements to take account of the implementation of the proposed change in the status of sixth form colleges as part of a review of value added tax liabilities. [25214]

Mr Gauke: Education funded by local or central Government is not a business activity, so would not be subject to VAT if it was charged for. However, schools and sixth form colleges, in common with everyone else, are liable to pay VAT on the taxable goods and services they purchase. The Chancellor has no plans to review this.

Those institutions are currently funded for these costs either through up-front central Government funding or, if they are local authority controlled schools, through a mechanism in section 33 of the VAT Act 1994.

Working Tax Credit

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for 16 hours per week who *(a)* will have their income reduced and *(b)* will fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of (i) changing the eligibility rules for working tax credits on hours worked per week to 24 with one partner working at least 16 hours per week, (ii) reducing to 70 per cent. the percentage of childcare costs that parents can claim through the childcare element of working tax credit, (iii) freezing the basic and 30-hour elements of the working tax credit for three years from 2011-12 and (iv) adopting the Consumer Price Index for the indexation of tax credits; and what estimate he has made of the average amount by which the income of affected households will change as a result of these measures. [21759]

Mr Gauke: The Treasury does not hold the specific numbers associated with this request, and to undertake the analysis required to produce these would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold. Given the interaction of tax credit measures with other benefits, it is the overall impact of measures that is important for a household. At the June Budget and the spending review, this Government have taken the unprecedented step of publishing detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of their decisions for the first time. This analysis shows that through providing extra support through the child tax credit, there is no measurable impact from modelled Budget and spending review measures on child poverty over the next two years.

Furthermore, in chart B.6 (p100) in annex B of the 'Spending Review 2010' document the Government have made efforts to bring together tax, welfare and departmental expenditure limit changes together for the first time. This shows that the top 20% contribute most to the fiscal consolidation as a percentage of net income and benefits-in-kind.

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants were sent letters inviting them to renew their tax credits through the specialist assisted renewals teams; and how many such claimants took up that offer. [24395]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs sent letters to around 400,000 households this year, inviting claimants with high value tax credits awards to call to complete the annual declaration and renewal process. Around 341,100 calls were received between 12 April and 31 October by the specialist renewals teams. Included in that total are a proportion of repeat or follow up calls from customers who had cause to call more than once. It is not possible to identify the breakdown of the various categories of calls received by the team.

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit claimants had the disability element of that credit removed from their *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2011-12 award after making contact with the assisted renewals helpline; [24396]

(2) how many tax credit claimants whose 2009-10 award was higher than £8,500 including a disability element, had the disability element of that credit removed in respect of *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; [24397]

(3) how many people lost all entitlement to working tax credit following the removal of their entitlement to the disability element of that credit during the renewals period of 2010. [24398]

Mr Gauke: The specific information requested is not recorded separately.

JUSTICE

Prison Population

19. **Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fewer offenders he estimates will be sent to prison in each year in order to meet his Department's target of reducing the prison population by 3,000 by 2014. [25578]

Mr Blunt: Specific proposals on reforms to sentencing and rehabilitation will be set out in the forthcoming Sentencing and Rehabilitation Green Paper. As a consequence the Government expect that the prison population will be 3,000 lower than the current level by March 2015. Without these proposals we currently expect the prison population will exceed 88,000 in 2015.

Safe Prison Cells

20. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the additional prison cells provided in the last five years met the criteria for safe cell classification. [25579]

Mr Blunt: About 6,200 safer cells have been provided since 2005.

Prisoner Voting Rights (Costs)

21. **Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the likely cost to his Department of making arrangements in prisons for prisoners to cast their vote in an election. [25580]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: As the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, my hon. Friend the Member for Forest of Dean (Mr Harper) made clear in the House on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 771, Ministers are considering how to implement the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, and when decisions have been taken they will be announced to the House in the usual way.

Sentencing Policy

22. **Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish his proposals on the future of sentencing policy. [25581]

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish his proposals on the future of sentencing policy. [25563]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: We intend to publish the Green Paper setting out proposals on sentencing and rehabilitation in December.

Prison Service

23. **David Rutley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to make the Prison Service more efficient. [25583]

Mr Blunt: We will set challenging efficiency targets for prison governors, requiring them to make savings while maintaining safe, legal and decent establishments. We will support them by a number of central initiatives, including reducing central prescription; benchmarking costs between establishments and developing proposals for a competition strategy for all offender services.

Heroin Addiction

24. **Mr Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those serving a prison sentence have been treated for heroin addiction. [25584][1]

Nick Herbert: Of those adults remanded or sentenced in 2009-10, 60,067 had clinical interventions for the management of heroin dependence, and 4,933 heroin users entered accredited drug treatment programmes in custody in the same period.

Courts Service: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding was allocated to the Courts Service in Dorset in 2009-10; and how much funding will be allocated in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [25650]

Mr Djanogly: Courts funding is not allocated along county boundaries. Local budgets have been analysed to provide an estimate of the budget within the county boundaries. This has been done by collating court budgets, and apportioning regional and national budgets which can be attributed directly to local courts.

The funding allocated to the Courts Service in Dorset for 2009-10 was £10.8 million.

The funding allocated to the Courts Service in Dorset for 2010-11 was £10.0 million.

The total funding for Her Majesty's Courts Service nationally has not yet been finalised for 2011-12. It is anticipated that the allocation to court level will be finalised by end February 2011.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25485]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice, Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian, Legal Services Commission, Youth Justice Board, Criminal Cases Review Commission, Information Commissioner's Office, Office for Legal Complaints, Land Registry and National Archive spent the following on press cutting services in the last 12 months:

	£
2009	
November	17,608.54
December	39,008.03
2010	
January	14,590.34
February	23,685.15
March	25,511.74
April	16,005.44
May	17,949.42
June	10,768.27
July	27,371.17
August	11,691.21
September	1,070.09
October	13,805.10

These figures do not include data for the Probation Trusts. These data are not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate costs to investigate the costs incurred, if any, for the Probation Trusts.

---

[1] *[Official Report, 21 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 5MC.]*

Additionally we can provide the following supporting data:

The Parole Board; the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority; the Judicial Appointments Commission; the Legal Services Board and the Office of the Legal Services Ombudsmen do not use a press cutting service.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission and Tribunals Service are invoiced annually rather than monthly in February and October respectively.

The National Archive changed suppliers in July 2010 from Adfero to Precise because the service was of a higher quality, more accurate and offered better value for money.

The LSC's contract with the press cutting agency Durrants will terminate on 21 November. The LSC's £10,000 licence with the Newspaper Licensing Agency expired on 19 October. Cancelling these contracts will save approximately £26,000 in 2010-11 and £60,000 annually. The LSC will now use the Ministry of Justice's media monitoring. To supplement this, the LSC's press office has, since 30 September 2010, been trialling a subscription to *The Times* and *Sunday Times* website at a cost of £1.00 for the first month and £8.66 for the second month. A decision on whether to continue this subscription will be made before Christmas 2010.

October figures for the Land Registry and the Information Commissioner's Office are unavailable as they have not yet received invoices for that month.

The Office for Legal Complaints has only used a press cutting service the last six weeks. The year long subscription they paid for in September has been pro rated to give the proportion of the cost that can be attributed to the last 12 months.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many minor injuries were sustained during the use of restraint procedures on *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in each secure training centre in each month since April 2008. [25382]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of minor injuries sustained during the use of restraint procedures in each month in 2008-09 in secure training centres (STCs). Data for injuries are not available by gender. It is a contractual requirement for any young person within a STC who has been restrained to be visited by a registered nurse within 30 minutes following the use of restraint.

Minor injuries

	2008									2009		
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Hassockfield	—	2	—	—	2	3	3	—	—		4	3
Medway	5	2	3	1	1	3	4	4	3	1	4	7
Oakhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rainsbrook	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	3

Notes:
1. The 2009-10 figures will be available once the 2009-10 Youth Justice Board annual workload data are released. Hence only figures for 2008-09 are given.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

I have requested that the disparity in the figures provided above should be investigated and I will write in due course with any findings.

Sentencing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to make changes to sentencing guidelines to reduce the number of adults sent to prison; and if he will make a statement. [25747]

Mr Blunt: The responsibility for issuing sentencing guidelines rests not with the Government but with the independent Sentencing Council. The Government submit their views on draft guidelines but do not have any say in their final content.

We are conducting an assessment of sentencing policy and will shortly publish a consultation paper with proposals for reform.

Sentencing: Young Offenders

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to make changes to sentencing guidelines to reduce the number of young offenders sent to prison; and if he will make a statement. [25748]

Mr Blunt: Sentencing guidelines are produced for the judiciary by the independent Sentencing Council. On 20 November 2009 the Sentencing Guidelines Council, predecessor to the Sentencing Council, published a sentencing guideline specifically for the sentencing of under-18s for the first time. This guideline states that custodial sentences should only be imposed as a measure of last resort. As this guideline is new there are no immediate plans to revise it, but the guideline will be subject to review if legislation is changed.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Human Resources

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr Walker), representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will establish a human resources department to deal with staff of hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [25172]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has no plans to establish a human resources department for MPs' staff.

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr Walker), representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on responsibility for the reimbursement of travel expenses of candidates who have attended interviews for jobs with hon. Members. [26016]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking about IPSA's policy on reimbursement of travel expenses for interview candidates (26016).

Travel expenses for interview candidates are not a reimbursable expense under the MPs' Expenses Scheme.

Support for travel expenses may be available from Job Centre Plus for certain candidates.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr Walker), representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what comparators the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority took into account in determining its policy on payment for reimbursement of travel expenses for persons travelling to job interviews with hon. Members. [26071]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about IPSA's policy on reimbursement of travel expenses for interview candidates (26071).

Reimbursement for travel expenses for interview candidates, while still prevalent in some industries, is no longer standard practice in either the public or private sectors.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr Walker), representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on the reimbursement of travel expenses of those called for interviews for jobs with the Authority. [26072]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking about IPSA's policy on reimbursement of travel expenses for interview candidates (26072).

IPSA does not pay travel expenses for candidates attending interviews for its own vacancies.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 24 November 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to ban the use of wild animals in circuses. [25242]

Mr Paice: A consultation on the use of wild animals in circuses came to an end earlier this year. We are currently considering the 13,000 or so responses before we publish a summary. In the meantime, Lord Henley has been meeting with representatives of welfare groups and the circus industry. An industry body has proposed a self-regulatory system but no decisions have been made.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on bringing forward legislative proposals to extend the application of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to private dwellings. [25244]

Mr Paice: Earlier this year, DEFRA and the Home Office published a public consultation on dangerous dogs and how to encourage responsible dog ownership. A number of proposals were raised during the consultation, including the issue of whether to extend the criminal offence of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control to private places. The consultation closed on 1 June and received 4,250 responses. We are currently analysing these responses and will publish a summary of the responses to the consultation very soon.

Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the merits of introducing a ban on the use of shock collars. [26002]

Mr Paice: There are no current plans to ban the use of electronic training aids for animals. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 already makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal and to treat an animal in a way that fails to meet its welfare needs. It also provides additional powers to prohibit the use of any such equipment through secondary legislation if considered necessary.

However, we recognise the need for further research into this issue. DEFRA is currently carrying out a study into whether electronic training collars cause unnecessary suffering, and this is expected to be completed next year.

Natural England: Agriculture

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of members of the Natural England *(a)* board and *(b)* committees has a background in farming. [25540]

Mr Paice: The information is as follows:

(a) The Natural England Board has two farmers and a smallholder out of a total of ten non-executive board members.

(b) Natural England has no statutory committees. Other groups or committees such as the Audit and Risk Committee meet according to business needs and include membership drawn from the non-executive Board. Natural England's Science Advisory Committee includes external representation from universities, including the Centre for Rural Economy, School of Agriculture, University of Newcastle.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what factors she will take into account in determining whether beak trimming of laying hens can be ended in 2016. [25522]

Mr Paice: The Beak Trimming Action Group, comprising representatives from industry, welfare groups, DEFRA, scientific and veterinary professions will be reconvened at the start of next year. It will be tasked with establishing an action plan to work towards a ban on routine beak trimming of laying hens in 2016. The review will consider results of on-going research projects that are investigating practical and realistic ways to rear laying hens without the need for beak trimming and will consider the outcome of industry study tours to those European countries where they do not beak trim. As the impact of feather pecking is greatest in systems of management which do not house birds in cages, the risk to the welfare of laying hens from injurious pecking is likely to increase after the ban on conventional cages comes into force on 1 January 2012. A review in 2015 will allow producers time to increase their experience of managing flocks in alternative systems.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the findings of her Department's visit to countries that do not have beak trimming of laying hens; and if she will make a statement. [25523]

Mr Paice: The UK laying hen industry will be responsible for conducting visits to those European countries who do not beak trim. The findings of the study tours will be presented to the Beak Trimming Action Group, which comprises representatives from industry, welfare groups, DEFRA, scientific and veterinary professions, which will be reconvened at the start of next year to establish an action plan to work towards a ban of routine beak trimming of laying hens in 2016. The industry experiences and results of on-going research will be fed in to the review in 2015.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in each police authority area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [26105]

James Brokenshire: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued, cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in each criminal justice system (CJS) area in each year between 2004 and 2008 is shown in the following table. CJS areas are coterminous with police force/police authority areas.

Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts[1] in each criminal justice system (CJS) area, as reported to the Ministry of Justice[2] by the Court Service, in each year, 2004-08, England and Wales

					Number
CJS area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	89	61	34	29	33
Bedfordshire	18	40	31	25	18
Cambridgeshire	26	50	31	20	34
Cheshire	62	98	43	37	27
Cleveland	28	60	80	65	51
Cumbria	31	49	31	27	37
Derbyshire	46	60	41	24	30
Devon and Cornwall	81	73	46	30	29
Dorset	36	19	15	13	9
Durham	31	27	26	19	41
Dyfed Powys	8	15	8	8	2
Essex	79	88	32	28	15
Gloucestershire	26	30	21	16	19
Greater London	446	532	358	269	215
Greater Manchester	430	458	225	178	151
Gwent	27	33	49	27	16
Hampshire	100	112	66	90	74
Hertfordshire	40	73	35	32	16
Humberside	72	138	115	78	70
Kent	54	44	29	26	13
Lancashire	126	148	115	102	53
Leicestershire	45	71	42	30	31
Lincolnshire	12	20	17	8	9
Merseyside	96	128	94	87	117
Norfolk	43	46	27	30	36
North Wales	42	103	87	78	53
North Yorkshire	41	34	27	25	12
Northamptonshire	39	32	13	22	40
Northumbria	75	181	70	38	37
Nottinghamshire	91	126	70	84	70
South Wales	46	64	54	50	54
South Yorkshire	80	104	83	49	47
Staffordshire	59	59	35	34	30
Suffolk	78	53	35	50	25
Surrey	48	50	26	17	13
Sussex	97	95	73	49	46
Thames Valley	77	57	44	54	43
Warwickshire	28	30	27	21	15
West Mercia	58	72	40	33	65
West Midlands	243	307	189	181	197
West Yorkshire	305	260	217	209	130
Wiltshire	20	22	4	7	4
England and Wales	3,479	4,122	2,705	2,299	2,027

[1] Includes ASBOs issued on application by magistrates courts acting in their civil capacity and county courts, which became available on 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence at the Crown court and at magistrates courts (acting in their criminal capacity), which became available on 2 December 2002.

[2] Prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, numbers of ASBOs issued were reported to Home Office by the Court Service.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Prepared by Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Crime: Young People

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were reported to have been committed by *(a)* people under the age of criminal responsibility, *(b)* people with a mental health disorder and *(c)* members of the armed forces in each of the last three years. [24390]

James Brokenshire: The requested information is not available centrally. The recorded crime data collected by the Home Office concentrate solely on the numbers of offences recorded and detected by the police and no details on the offender are included.

Offensive Weapons: Crime

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences involving offensive weapons were recorded in each police authority area in each year between 2005 and 2009. [26106]

James Brokenshire: Available data relate only to (a) offences where firearms have been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat and (b) offences that involved knives and sharp instruments. From the information collected on recorded crime it is not possible to identify those offences where other offensive weapons were used, since details of the individual circumstances of offences are not recorded.

The available information for firearm offences relates to offences recorded between 2004-05 and 2008-09 and is provided in table A. Data for 2009-10 will be published in January 2011.

Table A: Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by police force area, English regions and Wales 2004-05 to 2008-09

					Recorded crime
Police force area	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Cleveland	37	41	19	15	34
Durham	21	18	14	45	22
Northumbria	182	137	111	78	51
North-east region	240	196	144	138	107
Cheshire	61	71	41	59	61
Cumbria	26	18	21	18	28
Greater Manchester	1,268	1,200	993	1,160	827
Lancashire	259	372	364	349	207

Table A: Firearm offences (excluding air weapons) by police force area, English regions and Wales 2004-05 to 2008-09

Police force area					*Recorded crime*
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Merseyside	491	485	410	398	353
North-west region	2,105	2,146	1,829	1,984	1,476
Humberside	174	108	117	58	62
North Yorkshire	13	15	14	17	11
South Yorkshire	185	301	211	202	144
West Yorkshire	318	355	319	332	287
Yorkshire and the Humber region	690	779	661	609	504
Derbyshire	149	109	83	70	75
Leicestershire	123	89	109	134	127
Lincolnshire	90	72	45	41	16
Northamptonshire	113	128	159	164	112
Nottinghamshire	303	277	196	240	204
East midlands region	778	675	592	649	534
Staffordshire	144	128	94	123	44
Warwickshire	73	80	90	107	56
West Mercia	151	115	58	124	79
West midlands	959	946	979	974	987
West midlands region	1,327	1,269	1,221	1,328	1,166
Bedfordshire	94	103	86	83	64
Cambridgeshire	50	34	24	30	34
Essex	193	280	255	260	176
Hertfordshire	139	114	89	112	68
Norfolk	23	29	34	43	29
Suffolk	59	58	42	38	25
East of England region	558	618	530	566	396
London, City of	3	1	4	3	3
Metropolitan	3,694	3,883	3,327	3,396	3,087
London region	3,697	3,884	3,331	3,399	3,090
Hampshire	148	85	122	100	80
Kent	100	142	92	82	93
Surrey	63	87	60	70	66
Sussex	67	85	84	69	65
Thames Valley	437	401	332	322	214
South-east region	815	800	690	643	518
Avon and Somerset	196	167	138	116	95
Devon and Cornwall	189	174	132	111	70
Dorset	49	27	28	21	16
Gloucestershire	87	77	65	43	52
Wiltshire	49	43	69	49	45
South-west region	570	488	432	340	278
Dyfed-Powys	40	21	17	25	7
Gwent	85	53	33	47	36
North Wales	60	88	98	53	42
South Wales	104	71	67	84	54
Wales	289	233	215	209	139
England and Wales	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865	8,208

The Home Office has collected additional data on selected offences involving knives and sharp instruments since April 2007. Thus, there are no data available prior to 2007-08. Please note that the 2007-08 figures are not comparable to 2008-09 and 2009-10 due to the expanded offence coverage in those years. The available information is provided in tables B1 and B2.

Table B1: Knife and sharp instrument offences by police force area, English regions and Wales 2007-08[1]

Police force area[2]	*Recorded crime*
	2007-08
Cleveland	169
Durham	93
Northumbria	351
North-east region	613
Cheshire	224
Cumbria	73
Greater Manchester	2,214
Lancashire	361
Merseyside	757
North-west region	3,629
Humberside	267
North Yorkshire	66
South Yorkshire	381
West Yorkshire	915
Yorkshire and the Humber region	1,629
Derbyshire	215
Leicestershire	294
Lincolnshire	71
Northamptonshire	216
Nottinghamshire	548
East midlands region	1,344
Staffordshire	219
Warwickshire	160
West Mercia	144
West midlands	2,648
West midlands region	3,171
Bedfordshire	316

Table B1: Knife and sharp instrument offences by police force area, English regions and Wales 2007-08[1]

Police force area[2]	*Recorded crime 2007-08*
Cambridgeshire	100
Essex	289
Hertfordshire	222
Norfolk	67
Suffolk	118
East of England region	1,112
London, City of	19
Metropolitan	9,937
London region	9,956
Hampshire	388
Kent	327
Surrey	114
Sussex	274
Thames Valley	633
South-east region	1,736
Avon and Somerset	360
Devon and Cornwall	288
Dorset	47
Gloucestershire	85
Wiltshire	140
South-west region	920
Dyfed-Powys	76
Gwent	130
North Wales	108
South Wales	585
Wales	899
British Transport Police	269
England and Wales	25,278

[1] Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table.

[2] Four police forces include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces. The four forces are: West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police.

Table B2: Knife and sharp instrument offences by police force area, English regions and Wales 2008-09 and 2009-10[1]

Police force area[2]	*Recorded crime 2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cleveland	207	227
Durham	152	120
Northumbria	470	401
North-east region	829	748
Cheshire	341	276
Cumbria	87	98
Greater Manchester	2,835	2,361
Lancashire	843	622
Merseyside	892	798
North-west region	4,998	4,155
Humberside	369	357
North Yorkshire	225	205
South Yorkshire	648	571
West Yorkshire	1,273	1,311
Yorkshire and the Humber region	2,515	2,444
Derbyshire	327	317
Leicestershire	476	412
Lincolnshire	169	176
Northamptonshire	396	339
Nottinghamshire	940	767
East midlands region	2,308	2,011
Staffordshire	455	439
Warwickshire	223	157
West Mercia	341	318
West midlands	3,682	3,216
West midlands region	4,701	4,130
Bedfordshire	458	390
Cambridgeshire	402	360
Essex	730	679
Hertfordshire	177	128
Norfolk	130	201
Suffolk	200	178
East of England region	2,097	1,936
London, City of	26	10
Metropolitan	12,233	12,560
London region	12,259	12,570
Hampshire	592	582
Kent	553	377
Surrey	130	50
Sussex	728	681
Thames Valley	1,221	1,206
South-east region	3,224	2,896
Avon and Somerset	935	790
Devon and Cornwall	395	400
Dorset	164	176
Gloucestershire	181	157
Wiltshire	200	157
South-west region	1,875	1,680
Dyfed-Powys	95	73
Gwent	126	156
North Wales	136	97
South Wales	571	439
Wales	928	765
British Transport Police	346	231

Table B2: Knife and sharp instrument offences by police force area, English regions and Wales 2008-09 and 2009-10[1]

		Recorded crime
Police force area[2]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England and Wales	36,080	33,566

[1] Police recorded knife and sharp instrument offences data are submitted via an additional special collection. Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. In this table 'offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument. Total of selected serious offences only include the five offence types shown in this table.

[2] Four police forces include unbroken bottle and glass offences in their returns, which are outside the scope of this special collection. As such, data for these forces are not directly comparable to data for other forces. The four forces are: West Midlands, Surrey, Sussex and the British Transport Police.

UK Border Agency: Personnel

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff she expects to be employed by the UK Border Agency in each of the four years of the comprehensive spending review period. [24003]

Mrs May *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* The priority of the agency remains to secure the border and to control migration while we play our part in reducing the public deficit. The agency's overall commitment is to cut its budget by up to 20% in real terms over the next four years and reduce headcount by around 5,200. Detailed budgets have not yet been finalised and so I cannot provide a four-year profile.

Vetting

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 316, on voluntary organisations, what progress she has made in reviewing the criminal records vetting regime. [25822]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the Home Secretary on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 77-78WS. This statement announced terms of reference for the review of the Criminal Records Regime and the Vetting and Barring Scheme. The initial findings will be announced early in the new year.

SCOTLAND

Daylight Saving Bill

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* formal and *(b)* informal consultation his Department has undertaken on the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill; and if he will make a statement. [25762]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has written to, and remains in contact with, a number of organisations representing groups most likely to be affected by any change to British summer time, to seek their views. As the Prime Minister has already made clear, there can be no change to existing policy without the agreement of all parts of the United Kingdom, including Scotland. That agreement is not in place.

Post Office

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [25764]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth (Brandon Lewis) to question 24941 on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [25765]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth (Brandon Lewis) to question 24940 on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W.

Summer Time

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Scotland of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 865, on summer time (Scotland), what evidence his Department evaluated in determining that public opinion in Scotland on double summer time is changing. [25707]

David Mundell: The evidence mentioned above was introduced to the debate by my hon. Friend the Member for Castle Point (Rebecca Harris).

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Scotland of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 863, on summertime (Scotland), what methodology he used to determine that the majority of inhabitants of Scotland are opposed to the implementation of double summer time. [25804]

David Mundell: The implementation of single double summer time in the UK has remained a perennial debate since the last experiment to alter British summer time was abandoned four decades ago. As I said recently in the House, it remains the case that those who support the campaign to adopt single double summer time in the United Kingdom have to win the argument with the public in Scotland, with the body politic and with civic society.

TRANSPORT

Office of Traffic Commissioners

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to amend the *(a)* role and *(b)* responsibilities of the Office of Traffic Commissioners. [23279]

Mike Penning: We will be completing implementation of the Local Transport Act 2008 provisions that will create a 'pool' of Traffic Commissioners that are able to act in all traffic areas and amend the grounds on which an individual Commissioner can be removed from office.

Roads: Accidents

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many dogs were reported to have been killed or injured in a road traffic incident in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [26519]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport collates information on animals identified as carriageway hazards in reported personal injury road accidents. However, information on the types of animals involved in accidents and whether they are killed or injured, is not collected.

The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving animals in the carriageway, in England and Wales, 2005-09, is shown in the following table.

Reported personal injury road accidents involving an animal[1] in the carriageway: England and Wales 2005-09

	Accidents
2005	947
2006	977
2007	909
2008	769
2009	760

[1] Excludes ridden horses.

Roads: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to update the 10-year Road Safety Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [21250]

Mike Penning: The UK already has some of the safest roads in the world, but the coalition is considering how to make them even safer. We will produce a new strategic framework for road safety that sets out the Government's vision for road safety, national measures, and how we will work with others to achieve this. We will be discussing this with stakeholders and intend to publish a strategy early next year.

Transport: Aberdeenshire

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many major transport infrastructure projects have been completed in the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire local authority areas since 1980. [26025]

Norman Baker: The provision of such infrastructure projects is devolved to the Scottish Government. This is therefore a matter for Scottish Ministers.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Football: South Africa

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much his Department spent on attendance at the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [26152]

The Solicitor-General: Nothing.

The Crown Prosecution service sent a senior Crown Prosecutor to the World Cup with the English police delegation. Their role was to liaise with South African authorities on tackling violent disorder offences involving English nationals. The Home Office funded the prosecutor's travel, accommodation and expense costs.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated in grants for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to allocate for 2011-12. [25816]

Robert Neill: The total maximum amounts payable by the Department for Communities and Local Government for grants above £1 million are:

	£ million
2009-10	37,137.1
2010-11	34,442.7

The totals for formula grant paid by my Department (which comprises revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates) for 2011-12 onwards were published in table 2.8 of the spending review 2010 document. The other grants for 2011-12 and 2012-13 which have so far been confirmed to local authorities were outlined in table 2 of my reply to the hon. Member of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 198-200W. Details of other grant programmes will be released in due course.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years. [23756]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, as part of the new Government's transparency agenda, all spending over £500 can be found online on the departmental website for 2008-09 onwards. I also refer my hon. Friend to the Secretary of State's press release of 5 August 2010 which highlighted the unacceptable spending by Government arms' length bodies on lobbying Government and HM Opposition. We have instructed these bodies to cancel their lobbying contracts.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months; [24378]

(2) what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24493]

Robert Neill: We are committed to removing needless bureaucracy and unnecessary burdens contained within existing secondary legislation and other forms of regulation. We have already announced various changes including the suspension and impending abolition of Home Information Packs, the abolition of Comprehensive Area Assessment and the intended consolidation of planning (development control) procedures and building regulations. The forthcoming Localism Bill will contain additional measures to free local government from central and regional control so that it can deliver services according to local needs. These measures will include radical reform of the planning system to give neighbourhoods greater ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live.

New regulatory burdens on businesses are given full consideration through the new One-In-One-Out process, which ensures that the costs imposed by new regulations are offset by reductions elsewhere.

New burdens on local government are also fully taken into account through our New Burdens Assessments.

Later this year we will publish our Regulatory Forward Programme which will provide details of all forthcoming regulatory and deregulatory measures.

With this in mind, in the last six months 40 statutory instruments (orders and regulations) have been revoked in full and seven partially revoked. A list of all revocations has been placed in the Library of the House.

No new primary legislation has been introduced and 21 new statutory instruments have been introduced, many of which are deregulatory. A table with details of the statutory instruments that have been introduced has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25959]

Robert Neill: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

In the period 25 May to 12 November 2010, my Department received 374 written questions for answer on a named day of which 325 (87%) were answered on the due date. All 374 questions have now been answered.

My Department does not estimate the cost of answering written questions. For information on the annual indexation exercise of the cost of parliamentary questions conducted by HM Treasury, I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the then Exchequer Secretary (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25960]

Robert Neill: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

In the period 25 May to 12 November 2010, my Department received 1,016 ordinary written questions of which 948 (94%) were answered within five sitting days. Five of the 1,016 questions remain unanswered. Information on the number of ordinary written questions answered within seven and 14 days could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

My Department does not estimate the cost of answering written questions. For information on the annual indexation exercise of the cost of parliamentary questions conducted by HM Treasury, I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the then Exchequer Secretary (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will maintain the exemption for full-time and retained duty system firefighters from the European Union Working Time Directive; and if he will make a statement. [26538]

Robert Neill: This Government committed in the coalition agreement to limit the application of the Working Time Directive in the United Kingdom. Whole-time and retained duty system firefighters do not have an exemption from the Directive apart from in specified circumstances, but like other UK workers have the flexibility to opt out of the 48-hour limit to the working week set by the Directive. The Government recognise that losing the opt-out could have a major impact on fire and rescue services and will continue to stand firm on its retention.

Housing: Construction

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for alternative measures to replace regional housing grants for the purpose of supporting regional housing; and what recent representations he has received on the use of funds from existing regional housing grants. [25595]

Grant Shapps: In the spending review we announced investment of over £6.5 billion in housing. This includes over £2 billion to make existing social homes decent and almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, so our aspiration is to deliver as many as homes as possible through our investment and reforms. We will be publishing details on the new delivery model in the new year.

On 11 November we announced that councils and their arm's length management organisations that have a significant backlog of decent homes work will be eligible for funding from a new single decent homes funding stream. The Homes and Communities Agency are consulting on proposals for allocating this funding.

Funding for private sector renewal, formerly part of the regional housing pot, is now a matter for local authorities. We have given them significantly greater freedom and control over budgets. They can continue to provide this support where it fits with local priorities.

We have also launched a consultation on the New Homes Bonus which will commence in April 2011 and will match fund the additional council tax on new homes and properties brought back into use for each of the following six years with an additional amount for affordable homes. The consultation is available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/newhomesbonusconsult

This will be a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent incentive for local authorities to increase their aspirations for housing growth. We have set aside £1 billion of funding and further funding will come from formula grant.

Some representations in the form of ministerial correspondence have been received in relation to private sector renewal funding.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy that any funding awarded to county councils under the New Homes Bonus Scheme is spent on projects approved by the district council in whose area the new homes will be built; and if he will make a statement. [25884]

Grant Shapps: The Government do not propose to tell local authorities how and when to spend the funding received from the New Homes Bonus. The Government expect local authorities to work closely with their communities and in particular the neighbourhoods most affected by growth to understand their priorities for investment and to communicate how the money will be spent and the benefits it will bring.

We are currently consulting on the New Homes Bonus scheme design:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/newhomesbonusconsult

Peterborough City Council: Grants and Non-domestic Rates

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much Peterborough city council unitary authority received in revenue support grant in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [25921]

(2) how much Peterborough city council collected in national non-domestic rates in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [26021]

Robert Neill: The following table shows both (a) the amount national non-domestic rates collected by, and (b) the amount of revenue support grant received by Peterborough between 2005-06 and 2009-10. The data are shown in £ million.

	NNDR collected	*Revenue support grant (£ million)*
2005-06	67.2	101.6
2006-07	75.6	10.0
2007-08	75.7	9.3
2008-09	83.0	8.7
2009-10	83.0	14.0

The data are as reported by local authorities. The national non-domestic rates figures are the net yield figures taken from the national non-domestic rates (NNDR3) outturn forms submitted annually by all billing authorities in England. The net yield is the amount of national non-domestic rates collected by an authority before the deduction of collection costs i.e. losses in collection, repayments in respect of previous years and the allowance for the cost of collection.

The data for revenue support grant are taken from the Budget Requirement (BR1) forms submitted annually by all billing authorities in England. The revenue support grant figure for 2005-06 contains an element of funding for schools which was removed in subsequent years and paid as the dedicated schools grant.

Private Rented Housing

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hyndburn and *(c)* Haslingden are let by private landlords. [26188]

Grant Shapps: The latest data available, as set out in the English Housing Survey (EHS) Housing Stock Report 2008, published on 27 October 2010, show that approximately 3,300,000 properties are privately rented in England. The figures are not broken down to individual local authority level.

The full survey report is available on the DCLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Radioactive Waste

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the granting of planning permission for new low-level nuclear waste disposal sites. [26063]

Robert Neill: Current planning policy on waste is set out in Planning Policy Statement 10: "Sustainable Waste Management". A planning application for a new low level nuclear waste disposal site will be determined in accordance with the statutory development plan for the area, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

DECC will shortly publish for consultation a new strategy for the management of low level radioactive waste from the non-nuclear industry.

JUSTICE

Civil Litigation

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the recommendations made by the review of civil litigation costs conducted by Lord Justice Jackson. [25997]

Mr Djanogly: As the Secretary of State for Justice informed the House on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 659, the Government have now published the consultation paper, 'Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs: Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations'. The Government accept Lord Justice Jackson's assessment that the costs of civil litigation are too high and that the current arrangements impact disproportionately on defendants. Preliminary impact assessments were published alongside the consultation paper, available at:

www.justice.gov.uk

A final impact assessment will be published alongside the Government response next spring.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25550]

Mr Djanogly: Where catering requirements have been approved, food must be purchased from an approved MOJ food contractor. All products supplied to the MOJ must comply with all current and subsequent relevant UK and EU legislation, regulations and directives.

The legal framework governing public procurement is designed to ensure that public procurement is fair, transparent and not used to discriminate by setting up barriers to free trade.

However, where United Kingdom supplies can meet the specifications set by the Ministry of Justice will avail of these products wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25939]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25940]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

In the current Session since May 2010 MOJ has answered 185 named day questions, of those 183 (98.92%) were answered on the day named for answer. Eight of the 185 were answered by either giving an undertaking to write or stating the answer would partially or fully breach the disproportionate cost threshold. There were no outstanding named day questions on 18 November 2010. During the same session MOJ has also answered 1,123 questions for ordinary written answer, of those 1,086 (96.71%) were answered within five sitting days and 29 (2.58%) were answered within 10 sitting days. There were two questions unanswered on 18 November 2010.

The figures have been drawn from MOJ's parliamentary questions database, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The average cost for answering ordinary written and named day questions in MOJ is not held. However, Her Majesty's Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these average costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The estimated cost for written questions that have applied since 20 January 2010 is £154.

Domestic Violence

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average period elapsed between the issue of a community order with a condition of a domestic violence programme and the commencement of that programme in each probation area in the latest period for which figures are available. [26098]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald (Mrs Grant) on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 905W.

Waiting times for programmes are managed locally by each probation trust and prison. This information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by obtaining information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders serving a prison sentence *(a)* are receiving and *(b)* have received treatment for drug addiction. [26695]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not record data in the form requested. However prison and health records show that in 2009-10:

health services delivered 60,067 clinical interventions for drug addiction in prisons;

CARAT (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare) services performed 66,459 initial assessment for adult prisoners;

10,206 prisoners commenced accredited drug treatment programmes; and

6,586 young people were assessed by the Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS).

These data are drawn from administrative IT systems and are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale assessment and recording system.

Probation Service

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in expenditure on the Probation Service on the provision of *(a)* probation programmes, *(b)* unpaid work and *(c)* approved premises places; [26096]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in expenditure on the Probation Service on the length of time between the issue of a community order and a visit by an appropriately-trained probation officer to the subject of the order. [26097]

Mr Blunt: Internal resource allocations for the spending review 2010 period have not yet been decided, but we have made it clear that we expect savings to be achieved in large part through improvements in efficiency and by streamlining administration. We will publish a Green Paper before the end of the year, setting out our plans to reform sentencing and rehabilitate offenders more effectively.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Homicide

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of journalists killed in Colombia in 2010. [26082]

Mr Bellingham: Official figures from the Colombian Government show that between January and October 2010 one journalist was killed in Colombia. These figures are supported by the Colombian Foundation for Freedom of the Press (FLIP). Our embassy in Bogota has received reports of the killing of two further journalists, although these reportedly had no connection with the victims' work.

We are concerned about the safety of human rights defenders in Colombia, including journalists. We regularly raise our concerns with the Colombian Government, including at a recent meeting between our ambassador and the head of the Vice President's Unit for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25949]

Mr Lidington: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) records on answering questions are calculated on the basis of sitting days, not calendar days, in accordance with the convention that questions should be answered within a working week.

Since 25 May 2010, the FCO has received 185 questions tabled for written answer on a named day, of which 167 (90%) were answered substantively on time.

All such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010.

Answering questions tabled for written answer on a named day with short deadlines is challenging for the FCO, as officials in London often have to consult colleagues in other time zones around the world. However, the FCO has made no estimate of the average cost of answering questions.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25950]

Mr Lidington: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s records on answering questions are calculated on the basis of sitting days, not calendar days, in accordance with the convention that questions should be answered within a working week.

In the current Session up to 12 November 2010, the FCO received 789 questions for ordinary written answer of which 605 (77%) were answered within five sitting days, and 735 (93%) were answered within 10 sitting days. 12 questions remained unanswered.

We have made no estimate of the average cost of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling.

EU Institutions: Audit

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to increase the effectiveness of auditing practices in EU institutions; and what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his EU counterparts in the Council of Ministers on that matter. [24893]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are disappointed that the European Court of Auditors has been unable to grant a positive Statement of Assurance on the financial management of EU funds for the 16th year in succession. Although the Government recognise that the European Court of Auditors' recent report on the 2009 EU Budget shows some improvements compared to last year, we remain concerned that the pace of reform is too slow.

The Government believe that more needs to be done by all concerned to improve EU financial management and achieve a positive Statement of Assurance. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made these points at the meeting of EU member states' Finance Ministers on 17 November.

The Government will continue to champion reform through engagement with European institutions and other member states. The Economic Secretary met with the European Commissioner responsible for financial management, Commissioner Semeta, during a visit to Brussels on 14 October, and highlighted the Government's determination to have increased transparency and accountability in EU spending.

Israel: OECD

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 494-5W, on Israel: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which OECD documents citing Israeli data include *(a)* the full footnote and *(b)* each truncated version of that footnote. [25639]

Alistair Burt: The footnote is used in every Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development document or paper using (Israeli) data on the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Debts

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the level of debt relief that *(a)* Sudan and *(b)* Zimbabwe will receive in each of the next four years. [24452]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have made provision in the 2010 spending review for debt relief for both Sudan and Zimbabwe. A judgment was made that there is a realistic probability that these countries will meet the conditions required for debt relief during SR10.

Overseas Aid

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects on decision-making and oversight of his Department's country programmes of co-location of his Department's posts and those of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [25609]

Mr Duncan: No specific assessment has been undertaken of the effects of co-location with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on decision-making and oversight of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) country programmes. Co-location is the preferred option for both DFID and the FCO. Each co-location proposal is assessed against financial and non-financial criteria with a focus on achieving maximum value for money

DFID is currently working with other Government Departments with an overseas presence to look at ways the efficiency and effectiveness of corporate services can be improved by merging functions such as transport, security and facilities management.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Industrial Health and Safety

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost of employment was of *(a)* health and safety and *(b)* risk assessment staff in the House of Commons Service in each year since 1997. [26014]

John Thurso: The House of Commons employs two full-time safety advisers. The cost of this service is shared with the House of Lords. Over the last three years, the cost to the House of Commons has been:

	£
2007-08	68,400
2008-09	73,600
2009-10	72,000

Figures for earlier years are not available, but would have been broadly similar. Duties related to health and safety risk assessments are incorporated into line management responsibilities and individual job descriptions. It is not possible separately to identify the cost of these activities.

Outreach Programme

Caroline Nokes: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, (1) by what measures the outcomes of the Outreach programme are assessed; [25642]

(2) how many people have attended outreach events in the last 12 months; [25645]

(3) how many and what proportion of outreach events have directly involved members of the public, excluding staff of local authorities and non-departmental public bodies, in the last 12 months. [25646]

John Thurso: The Parliamentary Outreach service aims to spread awareness of the work, processes and relevance of the institution of Parliament, encouraging greater engagement between the public and the House of Commons and House of Lords. Since its launch, the level of demand for outreach sessions has increased continuously. Parliamentary Outreach now employs two main methods of increasing levels of public understanding and participation: (a) regional parliamentary training sessions, and (b) sessions explaining how to engage with Select Committees and the process of public Bills.

Over the past 12 months, the Parliamentary Outreach team has run 456 events, of which around 4.39% (20) were run in partnership with local authorities and non-departmental bodies. The majority of events are run in partnership with organisations in the voluntary and community sectors, ensuring maximum reach and value for money. Some 13,000 people have attended outreach events during the past 12 months. The vast majority of attendees are from organisations which have either a strategic remit to increase civic engagement or a direct objective to engage with parliamentary processes. As the partner organisations organise the attendance at the regional events, it is not possible to give an accurate figure of the percentage of attendees who are employed by local authorities or non-departmental government bodies. Analysis of the attendees at the public Bill workshops in the last two months shows that 9.4% of those who registered to attend are employed in these fields.

The success of each outreach event is measured by evaluating whether the participants feel better equipped to engage with Parliament. At least 98% of attendees at the recent public Bill workshops have stated that they felt better equipped to engage with Parliament and at least 94% rated the workshop as good or excellent.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much has been spent on the Outreach programme in each financial year since it was established. [25643]

John Thurso: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given on 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 844W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

Palace of Westminster: Gas

Mr Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 953W, on Palace of Westminster: gas, what professional or technical advice has been obtained on the contained gas leaks from gas lanterns in New Palace Yard; and whether there have been discussions with other operators of such lanterns on best practice for the prevention of gas leaks. [25504]

John Thurso: The Parliamentary Estates Directorate retains an onsite specialist "gas safe" contractor for day-to-day technical advice on all gas-related items, as well as the services of a specialist lighting company, which still manufactures gas lamps. The lighting company is currently refurbishing one of the gas globes in New Palace Yard following damage by a lorry.

The Parliamentary Estates Directorate is fully aware of possible reasons for leaks (faulty solenoid, failed mantles, broken glazing, pipe work leaks, etc) having maintained these gas lamps since 1991. It is recognised that the gas lamps are in need of significant refurbishment, which is planned for the summer recess of 2011-12.

In the meantime, the Parliamentary Estates Directorate will carry out an additional overhaul of the gas lighting.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, who is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the gas lanterns on the parliamentary estate. [25505]

John Thurso: The Parliamentary Estates Directorate, in the Department of Facilities, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the gas lanterns on the parliamentary estate. Due to the statutory nature of gas appliances all work is carried out by a specialist "gas safe" contractor who has maintained the gas lamps for 20 years.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions a foreign Government have refused a request from his Department to transfer or give access to *(a)* technology and *(b)* software code used by UK forces in Afghanistan since 2001. [26070]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 November 2010]*: Foreign Governments may on occasions provide access to technology and software only to their own forces, sometimes for a set period, for national security or foreign policy reasons or for allowing for their own exploitation of research and development.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, if the information was available, I would withhold it as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Counter-terrorism: Finance

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 501W on defence: expenditure, how much funding he has allocated from his Department's core budget to counter-terrorism activities in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [25613]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence does not separately identify the specific sums from the core budget that will be spent on counter terrorism activities. There are a wide range of capabilities that the MOD holds and similarly a wide range of activities which the MOD undertakes as part of core business that may contribute towards counter terrorism. The majority of MOD counter-terrorism activities are, however, provided in support of other Government Departments, for which it is reimbursed.

Defence: Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the projects identified in the National Audit Office's report on major projects include *(a)* technology and *(b)* software code over which his Department does not have full access for future upgrades and maintenance support. [26068]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* There are a number of projects mentioned in the NAO's report on major projects for which the Department does not, or does not yet have full access to the technology or software code to provide the required upgrades and maintenance support. However, where that is the case, we are either negotiating to obtain access or we have an appropriate arrangement with the holder of the technology or software code to provide the required upgrade and maintenance support, or the project is at an early stage where we would not yet expect such matters to be settled. I am withholding the information regarding the specific situation for each project as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Military Aircraft

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the 135 Tornados in the UK inventory have been modified for operations in Afghanistan; and what the estimated remaining in-service cost is for the Tornado fleet up to 2023; [23692]

(2) how many of the 79 GR9 Harriers in the UK inventory have been modified for operations in Afghanistan; and what the estimated remaining in-service cost is for the Harrier fleet up to 2023. [23693]

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he made of the net financial saving consequent on removing the Tornado fleet from service and retaining the Harrier fleet *(a)* in the next four years, *(b)* during the anticipated life of the Tornado fleet and *(c)* during the anticipated life of a retained Harrier fleet; and if he will make a statement; [24297]

(2) what estimate he made of the financial saving consequent on removing the Tornado fleet from service *(a)* not taking account of and *(b)* taking into account the effects of that decision on other capabilities (i) in each of the next four years and (ii) during the anticipated life of the current fleet; and if he will make a statement. [24298]

Peter Luff: In the interests of long-term financial affordability, the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) determined that we would transition to a two platform fast jet fleet consisting of the highly capable multi-role aircraft, Typhoon and joint strike fighter. In the transition period the difficult decision has been taken to remove Harrier from service in 2011.

The overriding factor in deciding between removing either the Tornado GR4 or Harrier was the ability to support operations in Afghanistan. The Harrier fleet would have been too small to support Afghanistan operations at current levels, notwithstanding Carrier Strike and other contingent operations. Conversely, the Tornado GR4 force—even at its reduced size—will be significantly larger than the current Harrier force and would allow continuous UK fast jet close air support to forces in Afghanistan and the ability to support concurrent operations. It also has a number of key capability advantages over the Harrier GR9 including:

greater payload and range and integration of capabilities such as Storm Shadow;

fully integrated dual mode Brimstone;

the Raptor reconnaissance pod; and

a cannon.

We will retain a reduced Tornado GR4 fleet that will drawdown gradually to ensure there is no effect on operations in Afghanistan as we transition to Typhoon and joint strike fighter, from which we will also regenerate our Carrier Strike capability. In line with these transitions, we currently plan to take the Tornado GR4 out of service in 2021. This updates the out of service date and associated costs in the reply given to the noble Lord, Lord West of Spithead in another place by Lord Astor on 16 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA178, which were based on pre-SDSR plans. The Prime Minister received full advice on the options regarding our fast jet fleet as part of the SDSR process.

The MOD made estimates of cost savings accrued from measures considered in the SDSR for the purpose of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trade unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity and health and safety. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed savings or updated in-service cost figures at this time.

The MOD calculates the full cost of aircraft per flying hour. The current rates for our fast jets are shown in the table. These figures include forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs, cost of capital charge, depreciation and amortisation. The Typhoon cost per flying hour reflects the build up of the fleet with small numbers of aircraft currently in-service. This cost will comparatively reduce as the fleet builds and is expected to be similar to our other fast jet fleets when we reach a steady state position.

Financial year 2010-11

Aircraft	*Cost per hour (£)*
Tornado GR4	35,000
Typhoon	70,000
Harrier GR7/GR9	37,000
Tornado F3	43,000

These costs will need to be reviewed once we have finalised the SDSR decisions and how they will be implemented.

The Tornado aircraft fleet, consisting of the GR4 ground attack and F3 air defence variants, is supported by two availability based maintenance contracts. The Availability Transformation: Tornado Aircraft Contract (ATTAC), for which BAE Systems is the prime contractor, provides Depth Support until 2016 and has a total value of £1.5 billion. The Turbo-Union RB199 engine which powers the Tornado aircraft is supported by the RB199 Operational Contract for Engine Transformation 2 (ROCET 2) awarded to Rolls-Royce until 2025. The contract has a total value of £690 million. There are no penalty clauses in either contract. However, both contracts include a number of conditions that allow for early termination. Any costs associated with the implementation of these conditions following the SDSR outcome are being negotiated with the contractor.

Under the Capability Upgrade Strategy (Pilot) programme approved in December 2007, 96 Tornado GR4 aircraft will receive capability upgrades between 2011 and 2014 at an estimated cost of around £300 million. This number of aircraft is sufficient to maintain the operational capability of the Tornado GR4 Forward Available Fleet until OSD. There are currently no plans for the aircraft to receive any further capability upgrades after 2014.

For the number of Tornado GR4 modified for Operations in Afghanistan, I refer my hon. Friends to the reply given to the noble Lord, Lord West of Spithead in another place by Lord Astor on 4 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA427. To optimise the further 17 Tornado aircraft required for operations in Afghanistan will cost around £0.5 million. The 15 Harrier GR9 aircraft that have returned from Afghanistan would require refitting of equipment to be made ready for operations.

HEALTH

Care Homes

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will assess the merits of bringing forward proposals to put in place further transparency and accountability mechanisms in respect of its assessment of care homes. [26084]

Paul Burstow: A new registration system for regulated adult social care services, under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, came into force on 1 October 2010. The Care Quality Commission is currently developing a new approach whereby information about regulated services will be made available.

Proposals for improving transparency and local accountability of adult social care were set out for consultation in "Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care", published on 16 November 2010. This publication envisages a new approach, which incentivises improvement in quality, based on transparent information on outcomes at the local level. The role of regulation and assessment of social care providers is discussed in this context. A response to the consultation will be published in March 2011.

Care Homes: Personnel

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to increase the staff-to-patient ratio in state care homes. [26083]

Paul Burstow: Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, all providers of regulated health and adult social care activities, whether in the public or independent sectors, must register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and meet a set of 16 requirements of essential safety and quality.

The registration requirements set out that providers must take steps to ensure that at all times there are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified, skilled and experienced staff and that staff are supported in relation to their responsibilities by receiving appropriate training, professional development, supervision and appraisal.

Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence and CQC has a wide range of independent enforcement powers under the new registration system to ensure compliance. These powers include the issue of a warning notice that requires improvement within a specified time, prosecution and the power to cancel a provider's registration, removing its ability to engage in regulated activities.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to take further steps to ensure that care homes are staffed by *(a)* appropriately qualified and *(b)* adequately trained professionals. [26085]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care services in England. CQC's role is to provide assurance of safety and quality for people who use services and patients.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), providers of regulated health and adult social care activities must register with CQC and meet a set of 16 requirements of essential safety and quality. The registration requirements, set in secondary legislation, include a requirement that providers must take steps to ensure that at all times there are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified, skilled and experienced staff, and that staff are supported in relation to their responsibilities by receiving appropriate training, professional development, supervision and appraisal.

Failure to comply with the registration requirements is an offence, and under the 2008 Act CQC has a wide range of enforcement powers that it can use if a provider is not compliant.

These include the issue of a warning notice that requires improvement within a specified time, prosecution, and the power to cancel a provider's registration, removing its ability to provide regulated activities.

In addition, Skills for Care is working with employers to ensure that care workers can access continued professional development, (Skills for Care is an employer led work force development organisation for adult social care which is largely funded by the Department, and the partner of the Sector Skills Council in England).

National Occupational Standards describe the skills, knowledge and values care workers should meet for a variety of settings at different levels.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital bed days there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available; [26123]

(2) how many hospital admissions there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* respiratory diseases in each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [26124]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Mansfield (Mr Meale) on 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 236W.

Dental Services

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of people in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England who have access to an NHS dentist. [25620]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the proportion of patients seen by a national health service dentist in the previous 24 months, in England, is available in Table E2 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England 2009/10' report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2010 and is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority.

This report, published on 18 August 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910

Dental Services: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the availability of NHS dentists in Bolton. [25621]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not received any recent representations regarding the availability of national health service dentists in Bolton.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are in Bolton. [25622]

Mr Simon Burns: The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the year ending 31 March 2010 in the Bolton primary care trust (PCT) area are 134.

This information is contained within table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2009-10" report. Information is provided for England and by strategic health authority and PCT. This information is based on the dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 18 August 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0910

Following a consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to review staffing levels in dental services; and what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that adequate personnel are available over the next five years. [25619]

Mr Simon Burns: We are currently undertaking a dental work force review, which will include a sample survey of dentists' and dental care professionals' working patterns and career plans. Initial results should be available by next spring.

Dental Services: Training

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental schools provide training for dentists in England; and how many places were offered by each dental school in each year since 2005. [25647]

Mr Simon Burns: The information that is available centrally for the 11 university dental schools now operating in England is for students admitted:

	Undergraduates admitted academic year beginning in September					
Dental school	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Kings College London	168	163	167	155	165	163
Bristol	75	69	73	73	73	85
Manchester	79	71	79	73	82	78
Queen Mary London	82	107	81	76	79	84
Liverpool	71	88	75	81	81	82
Leeds	90	88	89	94	88	92
Sheffield	74	76	76	80	84	80

Dental school	*Undergraduates admitted academic year beginning in September*					
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Newcastle	82	93	86	86	77	89
Birmingham	82	84	90	72	86	75
SW Peninsula[2]			56	64	58	64
Central Lancashire[2]			32	30	32	32

[1] Provisional.
[2] Opened September 2007.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months; [24380]

(2) what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24495]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last six months, the Department has revoked the following statutory instruments (SIs):

Tyne Port Health Authority Order 1990 (SI 1990/1119); and

The Rice Products from the United States of America (Restriction on First Placing on the Market) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/622).

We will also be continuing to scrutinise our stock of regulation and pipeline measures inherited from the previous administration with a view to finding OUTs, for the One-in, One-out regulatory management system.

In the last six months, no new primary legislation has been passed. The regulations and orders which have been introduced through statutory instrument are shown in the following table.

Title	*SI Number*
The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Order 2010	2010/ 1593
The National Health Service Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/ 1634
The Rice Products from the United States of America (Restriction on First Placing on the Market) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2010	2010/ 1585
The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Consequential Amendments No.3) Order 2010	2010/ 2224
The Medicines for Human Use (Prescribing by EEA Practitioners) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/ 1673
The Mayday Healthcare National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2010	2010/ 2230
The South Downs Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2010	2010/ 2229
The Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2246
The Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2228
The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (England) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2225
The Feed (Sampling and Analysis and Specified Undesirable Substances) (England) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2280
The Foodstuffs Suitable for People Intolerant to Gluten (England) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2281
The Food Irradiation (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2312
The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc.) Amendment Regulations 2010	2010/ 2389
The Health Protection Agency (Amendment) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2540
The Animal Feed (England) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2503
The National Health Service (Functions of Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts and Administration Arrangements) (England) Amendment (No.2) Regulations 2010	2010/ 2649
The Tyne Port Health Authority Order	2010/ 2676
The Medicines for Human Use (Prescribing by EEA Practitioners) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2010	2010/ 1673

Diabetes: Health Services

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* diagnose and *(b)* support people with diabetes. [26009]

Paul Burstow: The National Service Framework (NSF) for Diabetes sets out the framework for the prevention and diagnosing of diabetes, developing services and improving outcomes for people with diabetes. The national health service has made good progress against the NSF with the number of people getting the key tests and measures to help prevent or delay the complications of diabetes rising year on year. In addition, the National Quality Standard for Diabetes is currently subject to public consultation before being finalised in 2011.

The NHS is taking a structured approach to risk assessment and management of diabetes with the NHS Health Check programme. The Quality and Outcomes Framework encourages general practitioners to maintain a register of people with a diagnosis of diabetes and to ensure that they receive the key processes of care on an annual basis.

Supporting people with diabetes to better understand their condition is key to reducing complications arising from diabetes. Structured education programmes, access to specialist diabetes advice, care planning discussions and annual checks are all part of the wide range of NHS support for people with diabetes.

NHS Diabetes, the national service improvement team has an extensive range of work programmes in place to support the NHS in improving diabetes care at the local level. Specifically, they have produced "Commissioning Without Walls" which provides commissioning advice across a number of facets of diabetes care.

To raise awareness of type 1 diabetes, in July 2010, NHS Diabetes in association with Diabetes UK and the Department published an exemplar patient journey to highlight the diagnosis and entire care pathway for a child with type 1 diabetes. This is aimed at professionals from a broad range of backgrounds including education, the NHS, social services and the voluntary sector.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* NHS and *(b)* social care for people with diabetes in 2009; and how much was spent on (i) prescription medicines, (ii) glucose testing, (iii) treatment in primary care, (iv) hospitalisation, (v) ambulance services, (vi) treating complications and (vii) other costs in respect of diabetes care. [26065]

Paul Burstow: Diabetes is a life-long, complex condition that can affect every part of the body, which means that it is difficult to calculate its exact cost to the national health service. However programme budget returns estimates that for the year 2008-9, expenditure by the NHS on diabetes was £1.26 billion. For the calendar year 2009, the net ingredient cost of prescribing medicines for diabetes was £488.8 million and the cost for glucose testing was £144.5 million.

We are unable to provide figures for social care costs, treatment in primary care, the cost for hospitalisation, treating complications and other costs in respect of diabetes care or ambulance services for people with diabetes.

Disability: Children

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether baseline funding for primary care trusts will include an allocation for disabled children's services including *(a)* short respite breaks, *(b)* wheelchairs, *(c)* community equipment and *(d)* palliative care. [25760]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently makes revenue allocations direct to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of a national weighted capitation formula which is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources. The components of the formula are used to weight each PCTs population according to their relative need (age and additional need) for healthcare and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (the market forces factor).

PCT revenue allocations are not broken down by policy or service area. Once allocated, it is for PCTs to commission the services they require to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of both local and national priorities.

Further details about PCT revenue allocations post 2010-11 will be announced in December 2010.

Health Protection Agency: Ex-servicemen

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many atomic veterans have been included in the Health Protection Agency's mortality study; and if he will make a statement. [26603]

Anne Milton: The group of test participants covered by Health Protection Agency's study consists of over 20,000 servicemen and civilians who took part in the tests and a carefully matched control group of a similar size. Controls had served in tropical or sub-tropical areas, but not in test locations. About 85% of those meeting the definition of test participation are included.

The information about causes of death in this study is obtained only from death certificates and cancer registrations. Post-mortems are not part of the study. If participants have post-mortems for other reasons then the findings are duly recorded in the death certificate from which the study gets its information.

Three thorough studies have been carried out since the 1980s and the results have been published in science journals. Through the nuclear test veteran organisations, nuclear test veterans and their families have been kept informed about the studies since their inception in 1983 and the researchers have long been committed to providing the results of studies to the test veterans in advance of publication. The publications are in the public domain and are usually well reported in the news media.

Medical Treatments: Haemophilia

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many previously untreated patients were used in trials of the Factor VIII concentrate Hemofil T in the early 1980s. [26081]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information. Hemofil T was a commercial product, so the clinical trials would have been conducted by the manufacturer Hyland-Travenol (now Baxter Healthcare).

Prescription Drugs

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on assessing drugs for patient groups of fewer than 500 people; [25605]

(2) how the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence applies its guidance on social value judgements to the appraisal of drugs for patient groups of fewer than 500 people. [25624]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued any guidance to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the assessment of drugs for patient groups of fewer than 500 people.

NICE'S "Guide to the methods of technology appraisal specifies that Appraisal Committees should consider the document Social Value Judgements: Principles for the Development of NICE Guidance" in developing any piece of technology appraisal guidance.

The Guide to the methods of technology appraisal is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/B52/A7/
TAMethodsGuideUpdatedJune2008.pdf

The "Social Value Judgements: Principles for the Development of NICE Guidance" document is at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/C18/30/
SVJ2PUBLICATION2008.pdf

Stem Cells: Fats

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received on the use of stem cells taken from waistline fat to treat heart attacks; and if he will make a statement. [26498]

Anne Milton: The Department has not received any reports on the use of stem cells taken from the waistline to treat heart attacks.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Copyright: Internet

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of illegal online downloads of digital media. [26055]

Mr Vaizey: The Digital Economy Act 2010 contained provisions to help tackle unlawful file-sharing of digital content. Ofcom's initial obligations code, heralded by the Act, will shortly be published and is due to come into effect at the beginning of April 2011. Furthermore, the Department continues to liaise with representatives of the digital content industry, internet service providers and intermediaries to investigate further possible action which could appropriately be taken by industry itself to reduce unlawful online file sharing and promote legitimate digital content.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimates he has made of the cost to the music industry of illegal music downloading. [26056]

Mr Vaizey: I have made no recent estimate of the cost to the music industry of illegal music downloading. However, the British phonographic industry estimate that the loss to the UK music industry from unlawful file-sharing is £180 million per annum (2008).

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has discussed with representatives of the music industry non-legislative solutions to help reduce illegal online file sharing. [26058]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has had discussions with representatives of the UK music industry together with internet service providers (ISPs) to discuss possible non-legislative solutions to help reduce unlawful online file sharing, as well as the protection and promotion of legitimate digital content.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25546]

John Penrose: The Department provides very little food for official functions and, accordingly, does not have any specific guidelines for ensuring it is of domestic origin.

Football: South Africa

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on attendance at the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [26150]

Hugh Robertson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Exeter (Mr Bradshaw) on 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 321-22W, by the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, my hon. Friend the Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose).

Music: Finance

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the likely monetary value to the economy of the music industry in 2015. [26057]

Mr Vaizey: We have no plans to estimate the likely monetary value of the music industry in 2015, but in 2006 the Creative and Cultural Skills Council reported that the industry contributed some £6 billion to the UK economy.

S4C: Finance

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the funds allocated to S4C from the BBC licence fee will be spent in the independent production sector. [25693]

Mr Vaizey: All of S4C's content budget will be spent in the independent production sector, as at present.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will provide a period of six months for his Department and the BBC Trust to consider and report on the merits of the proposed funding arrangements for S4C; and if he will make a statement. [25694]

Mr Vaizey: Subject to the Public Bodies Bill, the funding arrangements for S4C are set out in the Secretary of State's spending review settlement letter of 20 October to the chair of the Welsh Authority and my right hon. Friend's licence fee agreement letter of 21 October to the chair of the BBC Trust.

Further information on the licence fee agreement can be found in the settlement letter published on our website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Lyons_BBC.pdf

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the funding to be allocated to S4C will exclude the £20 million the BBC spends on in-house Welsh language programmes for S4C. [25695]

Mr Vaizey: The statutory provision of Welsh programming by the BBC to S4C is in addition to the funding allocated to S4C in the Secretary of State's spending review settlement letter of 20 October to the chair of the Welsh Authority.

Further information on the licence fee agreement can be found in the settlement letter published on our website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Lyons_BBC.pdf

WALES

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to her Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25967]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to her Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25968]

Mr David Jones: The information requested is as follows:

	2010-11 Session
Named day questions answered	25
Named day questions answered on or before named day	25 (100%)
Ordinary written questions answered within one sitting week	147 (91%)
Ordinary written questions answered within two sitting weeks	158 (98%)

No named day parliamentary questions that have been tabled between May 2010 and November 2010 were awaiting a substantive response on 18 November 2010.

No questions tabled for ordinary written answer between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

In relation to the cost of answering written questions, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the figures provided by Her Majesty's Treasury in its written ministerial statement of 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Public Expenditure

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on funding for sport in Wales; [26567]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on that Department's expenditure in Wales; [26568]

(3) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on funding for transport infrastructure in Wales; [26569]

(4) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the effects of the comprehensive spending review outcomes on that Department's expenditure in Wales; [26570]

(5) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on cross-border health provision affecting Wales; [26571]

(6) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on that Department's expenditure in Wales; [26572]

(7) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on that Department's expenditure in Wales; [26573]

(8) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on that Department's expenditure in Wales; [26574]

(9) what discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on that Department's expenditure in Wales; [26575]

(10) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on that Department's expenditure in Wales; [26576]

(11) what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effects of the comprehensive spending review on that Department's expenditure in Wales. [26577]

Mrs Gillan: I have had regular discussions with my Cabinet colleagues on the comprehensive spending review and the implications for Wales. The importance of a fair settlement for Wales has been at the heart of all of those discussions.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what organisations he has consulted on his plans to reform adult community learning; and if he will make a statement; [26118]

(2) when he expects to be in a position to announce his proposals for reform of adult community learning; and if he will make a statement. [26119]

Mr Hayes: We very much welcome the hon. Member's interest. This Government are keen supporters of adult and community learning and the benefits it brings for individuals, families and communities. That is why we protected the funding for adult safeguarded learning in the recent comprehensive spending review. And that is why we are determined to make it accessible to the people in our society who are most disadvantaged and have had had fewest opportunities to learn in the past.

On 16 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced our intention to reform and reinvigorate informal adult and community learning. We are currently at the stage of planning the reform programme and I am considering proposals for the process and timescales. You will know already that we place a high value on the views of our partners in the sector. We will work closely with a wide range of organisations to maximise the potential of informal adult and community learning to support the development of the Big Society and create progression routes into further learning, training and employment for people who are disadvantaged.

Adult Education: Finance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's budget will be for adult community learning in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* 2014-15. [26146]

Mr Hayes: As set out in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', published on 16 November 2010, we are protecting the Department's budget for informal adult and community learning funded through the Adult Safeguarded Learning budget. I can confirm that informal adult and community learning has a budget of £210 million for 2011-12 and the same indicative budget for 2012-13. It will continue to be a priority as we finalise the allocations for future years.

Advantage West Midlands

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to make a decision on the future ownership of the Ansty Business Park, Coventry, after the closure of Advantage West Midlands. [25734]

Mr Prisk: This Department has been having ongoing discussions on the principles and process for the disposal of all regional development agency (RDA) assets and liabilities. Detailed guidance to RDAs is still being prepared and this will enable plans to be developed for transition. Until these plans are completed there will be no decisions on the sale or transfer of assets (outside ordinary course disposals) unless there are compelling time pressures which require an early decision be made. The plans will aim to secure maximum value for money for the taxpayer and optimum benefits to the region in question.

Apprentices

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to repeat the exercise undertaken for its study, Apprenticeship Pay: 2007 Survey of Earnings by Sector. [25786]

Mr Hayes: This Department does plan to undertake a survey of apprenticeship pay in 2011, following the introduction of the new apprentice minimum wage. The Government have recently strengthened the pay arrangements for apprentices by ending their exemption from the minimum wage and bringing all apprentices within the national minimum wage (NMW) framework. The new rate of £2.50 per hour was introduced from 1 October 2010.

Apprentices: Fees and Charges

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average cost to an individual aged over 24 years of course fees in respect of an apprenticeship place in 2013-14. [26145]

Mr Hayes: 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' (16 November 2010) sets out our funding strategy for post 19 further education (FE) and skills for the spending review. We have been clear that it is only fair that those who benefit the most from training make a greater contribution towards the costs of their course, but also only fair for them to make this contribution when they are indeed realising those benefits and earning a good salary.

From the 2013/14 academic year, Government will continue to share the costs of level 2 apprenticeships for learners aged 24 and above with employers. Government will no longer co-fund level 3 and higher apprenticeships for those aged 24 and above. In this instance, where learners are expected to contribute towards the costs, they will have access to fee loans to defer the costs of training.

In cases where a contribution is expected from a learner and/or employer, it is not possible to estimate the amount of fees charged to learners because from the 2013/14 academic year (i) as now FE colleges and training organisations will be responsible for determining the amount of fees charged and (ii) learners and employers will need to agree on a case-by-case basis how best to share the costs and what proportion of the fees each will pay.

As set out in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', over the next few months we will engage with colleges, training organisations and others on the details of how fee loans will be implemented to ensure the approach to fee loans recognises the characteristics of different types of learners and identifies the particular delivery arrangements appropriate for the FE and skills sector.

Astrum: Kuwait

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to assist Astrum with its bid to supply track spares to the Kuwait fleet of Desert Warrior armoured fighting vehicles. [25819]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation has engaged with the Kuwait Ministry of Defence on the competition for Desert Warrior Track and has worked successfully in support of UK companies, including Astrum, which have been invited to tender for this contract. I understand that the tender process has now closed and that the Kuwait Ministry of Defence is currently in the process of considering the bids.

Balance of Trade: Republic of Ireland

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of *(a)* exports to and *(b)* imports from each region of the UK in respect of the Republic of Ireland in the last five years for which figures are available. [26155]

Mr Prisk: The data requested are shown in the following tables for trade in goods, based on HM Revenue and Customs regional trade statistics:

(a) UK exports of goods to the Republic of Ireland (£ million)

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
United Kingdom total	16,205	17,202	17,632	18,586	15,484
North East	313	357	372	387	253
North West	1,237	1,357	1,385	1,412	1,224
Yorkshire and the Humber	854	936	1,015	1,039	892
East Midlands	1,016	1,076	1,154	1,154	1,059
West Midlands	831	936	990	900	681
East	1,334	1,306	1,343	1,530	1,591
London	1,497	1,469	1,520	1,459	1,395
South East	2,019	2,042	2,094	2,151	1,868
South West	1,318	1,263	1,342	1,055	607
Wales	847	951	913	1,137	898
Scotland	735	559	449	382	346
Northern Ireland	2,006	2,272	2,436	2,513	2,112
Unknown	2,199	2,678	2,620	3,466	2,559

(b) UK imports of goods from the Republic of Ireland (£ million)

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
United Kingdom total	10,005	10,417	11,249	12,020	12,265
North East	95	42	74	57	48
North West	500	531	528	589	520
Yorkshire and the Humber	444	467	457	504	455
East Midlands	182	172	238	242	249
West Midlands	445	508	511	700	605
East	1,226	1,294	1,959	2,476	3,079
London	1,328	1,444	1,284	1,301	1,216
South East	1,527	1,675	1,718	1,599	1,771
South West	358	482	543	495	474
Wales	127	99	91	74	91
Scotland	178	201	336	182	175
Northern Ireland	1,370	1,423	1,510	1,600	1,598
Unknown	2,224	2,077	2,000	2,200	1,985

Banks: Loans

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the level of access to finance for small and medium-sized businesses. [26104]

Mr Prisk: The Government are committed to improving access to finance for small and medium sized enterprises to enable them to grow and drive the recovery.

On 1 November we published our response to the consultation on business finance issues, "Financing a private sector recovery" which is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/businessfinance

We have also published our strategy "Backing small business" available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/backing-small-business

setting out new measures to help SMEs grow and to boost enterprise.

We have announced the following measures to increase the level of access to finance for small and medium sized firms:

> A four year extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) making around £2 billion available to viable SMEs without a credit history or lacking sufficient collateral.
>
> An increased commitment to the Enterprise Capital Fund programme of £200 million to support small businesses with the highest growth potential, providing more than £300 million of venture capital investment into the equity gap after both Government and private sector funding are combined.
>
> Furthermore, we have worked with the banks to create a new £1.5 billion Business Growth Fund, to provide equity funding of between £2 million and £10 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with strong growth potential.

Business: Government Assistance

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises have received funding from the Capital for Enterprise Fund since its establishment; and what proportion of his Department's expenditure on that scheme has been in respect of such enterprises. [26101]

Mr Prisk: The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) is a £75 million fund including £50 million of public funds, supported by £25 million from UK banks.

38 companies have been invested in by CfEF's underlying funds. Overall investor commitment drawn to date is £52.1 million out of which the total Government commitment is £38.3 million.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises have received funding from the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme since its establishment; and what proportion of his Department's expenditure on that scheme has been in respect of such enterprises. [26102]

Mr Prisk: As of 17 November, 12,699 businesses have been offered Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) backed loans with a value of £1.29 billion, of which 10,968 business have drawn down loans totalling £1.1 billion.

The EFG scheme guarantees bank lending to small and medium-sized businesses with a turnover of up to £25 million. BIS expenditure on EFG would arise from claims on the guarantee by an accredited lender should a borrower default on their loan repayments. As such, all of the Department's expenditure of EFG has been in respect to loans to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises have received funds from the Working Capital Scheme since its establishment; and what proportion of his Department's expenditure on that scheme has been in respect of such enterprises. [26103]

Mr Prisk: The previous Government launched the Working Capital Scheme (WCS) in January 2009 to provide guarantees to banks on portfolios of loans: individual businesses were not eligible to apply for these guarantees. It was announced in November 2009 that no new guarantees would be available under the WCS. All current guarantees will be honoured until the end of the scheme on 31 March 2011. As there have been no defaults to date, there has been no relevant expenditure.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department had spent on the *(a)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee, *(b)* Capital for Enterprise Fund and *(c)* Working Capital Scheme between their inception and on the latest date for which figures are available. [26107]

Mr Prisk: Both the Enterprise Finance Guarantee and Working Capital Scheme operate as loan guarantee schemes whereby Government expenditure arises from defaults. The Capital for Enterprise Fund is an equity fund scheme.

Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, 12,699 businesses have been offered loans with a value of £1.29 billion, of which 10,968 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £1.1 billion. The total Government expenditure to date is £6.1 million.

The Working Capital Scheme provided guarantees to banks of £2.2 billion to release regulatory capital for new lending. To date there have been no defaults to date under the Working Capital Scheme, and as such there has been no relevant expenditure.

Under the Capital for Enterprise Fund, the Government have committed £50 million of funds towards an overall fund size of £75 million. From this £38.3 million has been drawn from the Government contribution of SME investments.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25496]

Mr Davey: Spend on press cuttings services in the 12 months since October 2009 by the Department's Press Office is:

Month	*Total (excluding VAT) (£)*
October 2009	15,479.58
November 2009	13,470.36
December 2009	12,006.92
January 2010	11,883.16
February 2010	11,292.40
March 2010	14,890.40
April 2010	12,361.06
May 2010	9,761.30
June 2010	7,302.04
July 2010	7,239.44
August 2010	8,076.64
September 2010	7,910.40
October 2010	9,369.12

These figures cover the costs of producing and distributing electronic and printed copies of the daily press cuttings. They excluded the copyright costs paid to the Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA) via our press cuttings service provider.

Information for spend on press cuttings services for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24498]

Mr Prisk: In the last six months, BIS has *(a)* not introduced any regulations through primary legislation and has *(b)* introduced 20 regulations through statutory instruments. Of the 20 measures, only four impose a cost on business. During the time period the Postal Services Bill was introduced into Parliament.

Economic Growth

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution he expects regional growth hubs to make to economic growth in the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [25803]

Mr Prisk: It is too early to make such an assessment for growth hubs. Where analytical evidence is available from services which might be offered within growth hubs, the evidence suggests the impact will be substantial. The Department will set out its proposals in due course.

Foreign Investment in UK

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many potential inward investment deals UK Trade and Investment has negotiated since May 2010; and in respect of what proportion contracts have been agreed. [25409]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has been involved in 102 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects, confirmed as locating or expanding in the UK, between 1 May and 17 November. UKTI has been involved in a further 224 FDI projects confirmed during the same period as being expected to locate or expand in the UK, but where final confirmation of the location or expansion has not yet been received.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of inward investment attributable to the influence of UK Trade and Investment in each of the last five years. [25444]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) records the numbers of foreign direct investment (FDI) projects entering the UK each year, together with the investing companies estimates of associated jobs and capital expenditure for the first three years of each FDI project. In many cases companies do not provide capital expenditure data so the recorded figures for that are partial. Within the overall total for the UK, the figures for each of the last five years in respect of projects assisted by UKTI are as follow;

	UKTI assisted FDI projects	*No. of new jobs*	*No. of safeguarded jobs*	*Total No. of associated jobs*	*Capital investment (where supplied) (£)*
2005/06	449	12,507	5,940	18,447	1,389,453,250
2006/07	496	13,611	3,267	19,878	973,331,000
2007/08	549	14,274	9,824	24,098	583,746,000
2008/09	600	10,678	18,600	29,278	2,420,905,617
2009/10	759	32,557	14,661	47,218	3,978,749,064
Totals	2,853	83,627	52,292	138,919	9,346,184,931

Foreign Investment in UK: Yorkshire

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of Government-supported inward investment in respect of Yorkshire was attributable to *(a)* UK Trade and Investment and *(b)* Yorkshire Forward in the latest period for which figures are available. [25440]

Mr Prisk: For the financial year 2009/10, which is the last period for which full figures are available, a total of 147 foreign direct investment projects was recorded by UKTI in the Yorkshire and Humber region. A total of 93 were assisted by Yorkshire Forward, UKTI or a combination of the two. This breaks down as follows:

(i) UKTI and Yorkshire Forward jointly: 27;

(ii) UKTI alone: 11;

(iii) Yorkshire Forward alone: 55.

HM Government currently fund the work of the regional development agencies (RDAs) through the RDAs' Single Budget, which is administered by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. UKTI is one of the Government Departments which contributes to the RDAs' Single Budget. UKTI's contribution is specifically intended to fund the foreign direct investment work of the RDAs, including Yorkshire Forward, as part of the UKTI-led national foreign direct investment effort.

UKTI's estimated contribution to Yorkshire Forward in the financial year 2009/10 was £2,183,000, 13.31% of the total of £16,401,000 paid by UKTI into the RDAs' Single Budget during this period.

Graduates: Income

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the average additional lifetime earnings of higher education graduates; when this figure was most recently calculated; and how many students were in higher education at that time. [23712]

Mr Willetts: The Department draws on various estimates of the lifetime earnings benefits for degree holders, arising from both external and internal analysis. Generally they all estimate the lifetime earnings benefits of having a first degree over and above two or more A-levels (the 'graduate premium').

These estimates indicate that first degree graduates can expect to earn, on average, over £100,000 more over their working life, in today's values and net of taxes, than similar individuals who stop their education with two or more A-levels.

This is for the average graduate, and the actual position for any individual will vary around this average.

There have been several calculations of the graduate premium in recent years, using data from different time periods and/or slightly different methods, though they have all used data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS—a sample survey) and the broad approach is consistent. These have all come to similar conclusions, albeit with slightly different estimates, which is why it is generally not expressed as a single figure but rather as a range or being above a certain value.

Some of the estimates are noted as follows, along with an indication of the data periods used for each one:

LFS data period	*Graduate premium estimate*	*Source*
1994-2002	Net males: £142,000 Net females: £158,000	[1]Sloane and O'Leary, 2005
2000-05	Gross: £160,000 (Net c.£110,000-£120,000)	[2]PWC, 2007
2004-07	Net £120,000	DIUS internal, 2008

[1] "The Return to a University Education in Great Britain, O'Leary, N.C. and P.J. Sloane (2005), National Institute Economic Review, No. 193; pp 75-89.

[2] "The Economic Benefits of a degree", UUK/PWC, February 2007. http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Documents/research-gradprem.pdf

The number of students in higher education for each academic year since 1999/2000 was as follows:

	All HE students		*Undergraduate only*	
	UK HEIs	*English HEIs*	*UK HEIs*	*English HEIs*
1999/2000	1,856,330	1,540,610	1,447,710	1,198,330
2000/01	1,990,625	1,656,700	1,541,925	1,278,895
2001/02	2,086,075	1,726,840	1,616,225	1,334,510
2002/03	2,175,115	1,807,660	1,677,615	1,390,915
2003/04	2,247,440	1,868,415	1,723,615	1,428,430
2004/05	2,287,540	1,895,825	1,754,910	1,448,380
2005/06	2,336,110	1,936,420	1,790,740	1,481,985

	All HE students		*Undergraduate only*	
	UK HEIs	*English HEIs*	*UK HEIs*	*English HEIs*
2006/07	2,362,815	1,957,190	1,803,425	1,494,760
2007/08	2,306,105	1,922,180	1,804,970	1,505,015
2008/09	2,396,050	2,005,840	1,859,240	1,556,525

Source:

HESA data. All: modes of study, levels of study, domiciles. http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/component/option.com_datatables/ltemid,121/task.show_category/catdex,3/#institution

Green Investment Bank: South West

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will put in place measures to ensure that the South West benefits from the creation of the Green Investment Bank. [24894]

Mr Prisk: As outlined in the spending review statement, we are committed to establishing a UK-wide Green Investment Bank, which will focus on the financing of green infrastructure projects and the deployment of late-stage green technologies. Work on the business and operating model is currently under way, and we will be guided by the Government's tests of effectiveness, affordability and transparency.

My hon. Friend may wish to note that we will be completing design work and further market testing by May 2011. Therefore, I am unable to provide further details of the institution's final design at this stage. However, the intention is to create an institution with powers to invest across the UK. The Government's current view is that this should be feasible.

Higher Education

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the behavioural patterns of potential undergraduates in respect of making applications to higher education institutions of his proposed changes to higher education funding; what evidence he took into account in making this assessment; and if he will make a statement. [25691]

Mr Willetts: To support the Browne Review and the Government's response, we commissioned research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) to explore how changes in fees, grants and loans impact on participation. This research drew on variation in grants, fees and loans over the period 1992-2007, and indicated that a £1,000 increase in fees results in a 4.4ppt decrease in university participation, while a £1,000 increase in loans results in a 3.2ppt increase in participation, and a £1,000 increase in grants results in a 2.1ppt increase in participation; therefore offsetting any effect from an increase in fees.

The Government's proposals provide a more generous package of grants and loans to ensure that no students face any up-front costs for tuition and those from lower income households, while studying, get more support for their living costs. The Government are also due to consult on the details of the National Scholarships programme aimed at providing further targeted support for students. The more progressive repayment system of graduate contributions to the cost of university education will also protect any low-earning graduates.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on skills training of his proposed changes to higher education funding; and what statistical evidence he evaluated in making that assessment. [23375]

Mr Willetts: Our proposed changes allow us to maintain the supply of high-level skills. They open up opportunities for new providers, and offer improved student support for part-time students, many of whom will be within the existing work force. Those eligible for part-time support will rise to around 150,000; currently only around 60,000 receive support.

Prospective higher education learners of all ages will be better-informed and have real choice.

The forthcoming higher education White Paper will set out how we expect the higher education sector to develop the high level skills of both our future and existing workforce, and so support economic growth.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the costs of processing graduate repayments and *(b)* other costs to the Student Loan Company of implementing his proposals to reform the funding of universities and students; and whether such costs will be met from his Department's budget. [26196]

Mr Willetts: We expect to publish an interim impact assessment relating to the Government's proposals for urgent reforms to Higher Education funding and student finance at the same time as the first draft regulations relating to the these reforms are brought before Parliament. The interim impact assessment will include projections of the costs of processing graduate repayments and other related costs for the Student Loans Company, although it should be noted that these projections will be indicative and will be refined in due course. Costs will be met from within the Department's spending review budget allocation. The interim impact assessment will be published on the BIS website and a copy will be forwarded to the hon. Member.

Higher Education: Mature Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* particular requirements of mature students and *(b)* reasons for recent trends in respect of the number of university (i) applications and (ii) acceptances in respect of mature students. [26193]

Mr Willetts: We are providing extra help to mature students by ensuring that part-time under graduates, studying for at least a third of their time, will not have to face up front fees because they can access the same progressive finance package as full-time students. 93% of part-time under graduate enrolments are mature students. Those eligible for part-time support will rise to around 150,000; currently only 60,000 receive support.

The most recent data available show that the number of applicants in respect of mature students (defined as being aged 21 and over) to English institutions by domicile at the main scheme deadline for the period 2007 to 2010 was as follows:

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
UK and other EU	82,245	98,513	117,678	139,729
Non-EU	12,205	12,502	12,632	13,688
Total	94,450	111,015	130,310	153,417

and that the acceptances, for the same period, were as follows:

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
UK and other EU	66,024	79,317	86,621	83,764
Non-EU	7,820	7,662	8,207	8,089
Total	73,844	86,979	94,828	91,853

Note:
In 2008 the Nursing and Midwifery Admissions Service (NMAS) was incorporated into the main UCAS system for the first time. In 2008 there were 9,295 applicants who applied only to NMAS courses, and 8,410 who were accepted.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Application Service (UCAS).

Local Enterprise Partnerships: North West

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on approval of a local economic partnership for Pennine-Lancashire. [25903]

Mr Prisk: Three conflicting proposals were made in Lancashire. At the moment, positive discussions are taking place about how those can be rationalised, and officials will continue to work with both business and civic leaders to find a sensible arrangement.

Mature Students: Loans

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of individuals aged 24 years and over who will be obliged to take out loans to pay for a level three qualification from 2013-14 as a result of the implementation of his Department's proposals. [26142]

Mr Hayes: 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' (16 November 2010) sets out the funding strategy for post-19 further education (FE) and skills. The introduction of new FE loans from the 2013/14 academic year provides the capacity for learner investment. We recognise that this is a significant reform and that is why we are phasing in the changes over the spending review period to provide the sector with sufficient time to plan effectively.

As set out in 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', over the next few months we will engage with colleges, training organisations and others on the details of how fee loans will be implemented to ensure the approach to fee loans recognises the characteristics of different types of learners and identifies the particular delivery arrangements appropriate for the FE and skills sector.

It is therefore not possible to estimate the number of learners who will be eligible for fee loans in the 2013/14 academic year.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Sector Skills Councils on the implications for individuals aged 24 years and over of requiring them to take out loans to pay for a level three qualification from 2013/14 as part of the implementation of his Department's proposals. [26143]

Mr Hayes: "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (16 November 2010) sets out the funding strategy for post-19 Further Education (FE) and Skills. The introduction of new FE loans from the 2013/14 academic year provides the capacity for learner investment. We recognise that this is a significant reform and that is why we are phasing in the changes over the spending review period to provide the sector with sufficient time to plan effectively.

As set out in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth", over the next few months we will engage with colleges, training organisations and others on the details of how fee loans will be implemented to ensure the approach to fee loans recognises the characteristics of different types of learners and identifies the particular delivery arrangements appropriate for the FE and Skills sector.

Mobile Phones: Prices

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the cost of calling 0870 and 0845 numbers from mobile telephones. [24097]

Mr Vaizey: I have had no discussions with Ofcom on this issue, as under the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom has responsibility for numbering policy, which includes the provision of 0870 and 0845 number ranges. Since 2006, in response to consumer concern, Ofcom has introduced a range of measures that has made 0870 and 0845 calls cheaper for calls from landlines, although this has not been possible for calls from mobile telephones due to the additional costs, which are usually involved in transmitting and connecting the call from the mobile network.

Earlier this year, Ofcom started a review of the consumer experience of non-geographic numbers to consider whether they need to restructure the regulations that control the delivery of non-geographic calls services to consumers. These are telephone numbers beginning with 03, 05, 070/076, 08, 09, 116 and 118. They expect to publish their consultation shortly, and full details of its proposals will be available on its website:

www.ofcom.org.uk

North East of England Development Board

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the functions of the North East of England Development Board are; and if he will make a statement. [25641]

Mr Prisk: The North East Industrial Development Board closed on 23 February 2010. The principal function of the Board was to advise One North East on applications for regional selective assistance under the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) scheme and its predecessors of over £250,000 and less than £2 million. From time to time the Board was also asked to advise One North

East on: applications for selective financial assistance that fell outside current forms of support; applications submitted under the Tees Valley Industrial programme (TVIP); proposals to make major modifications to existing forms of support; proposals to introduce new forms of support under Section 8 of the Industrial Development Act 1982; administrative aspects of GBI and other schemes; and to provide information on the state of the regional economy to the Government Office for the North East as part of its quarterly report.

These functions were transferred to the North East Investment Advisory Panel on its creation in March 2010.

Northwest Regional Development Agency: Assets

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had on the sale of assets owned by the North West Development Agency; and if he will make a statement. [25902]

Mr Prisk: This Department has been having ongoing discussions on the principles and process for the disposal of all regional development agency (RDA) assets and liabilities. Detailed guidance to RDAs is still being prepared and this will enable plans to be developed for transition. Until these plans are completed there will be no decisions on the sale or transfer of assets (outside ordinary course disposals) unless there are compelling time pressures which require an early decision be made. The plans will aim to secure maximum value for money for the taxpayer and optimum benefits to the region in question.

Overseas Trade

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many trade missions his Department has led to each country in each of the last five years. [25445]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment funds national and regional outward trade missions which give companies the opportunity to visit overseas markets as part of a UK delegation. Information held on the UKTI Client Relationship Management (CRM) system on the number of missions funded since April 2007 is reflected in the following table. These figures do not include support for exhibitions or individual events overseas. Before that date, full records were not held centrally and could be retrieved only at disproportionate cost.

Number of UKTI outward trade missions

Country	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (to date)*	*Total*
Algeria	0	1	0	0	1
Argentina	0	0	1	0	1
Australia	1	0	1	1	3
Austria	0	0	2	1	3
Bahrain	1	2	1	0	4
Belgium	0	1	0	1	2
Brazil	8	8	11	9	36
Brunei	0	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	4	3	2	1	10
Canada	5	8	3	1	17
Chile	0	1	1	0	2
China	20	29	30	24	103
Croatia	0	1	1	0	2
Cyprus	0	1	0	0	1
Czech Republic	3	1	2	0	6
Denmark	1	1	2	0	4
Egypt	2	6	1	0	9
Estonia	0	1	0	1	2
Finland	0	2	0	1	3
France	3	5	4	3	15
Germany	2	5	2	0	9
Ghana	0	2	3	1	6
Hong Kong (SAR)	6	5	2	1	14
Hungary	3	0	0	0	3
India	13	17	10	6	46
Indonesia	0	0	1	2	3
Iraq	0	0	1	0	1
Ireland	0	0	1	0	1
Israel	2	4	3	0	9
Italy	0	5	2	4	11
Japan	11	10	6	4	31
Jordan	0	1	2	1	4
Kenya	0	3	2	0	5
Korea (South)	1	1	4	2	8
Kuwait	0	1	1	0	2
Latvia	0	1	0	1	2
Lebanon	0	0	1	0	1
Libya	0	6	10	5	21
Macao (SAR)	2	0	0	0	2
Malaysia	1	3	3	3	10
Mexico	4	3	4	3	14
Montenegro	0	1	0	0	1
Morocco	0	2	0	0	2
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	2
New Zealand	0	1	0	0	1
Nigeria	3	6	1	0	10
Norway	1	0	0	2	3
Oman	1	0	1	0	2
Panama	0	0	1	0	1
Philippines	3	1	1	0	5
Poland	8	6	3	0	17
Portugal	5	3	3	3	14
Qatar	3	4	6	1	14
Romania	3	8	2	0	13
Russia	5	5	8	5	23
Saudi Arabia	8	7	5	0	20
Serbia	0	1	0	0	1
Singapore	1	0	6	2	9
Slovakia	2	0	0	0	2
Slovenia	0	1	0	0	1
South Africa	4	3	4	1	12
Spain	4	0	4	0	8
Sweden	3	2	0	0	5
Switzerland	2	6	3	0	11
Syria	0	0	1	0	1

Number of UKTI outward trade missions

Country	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (to date)*	*Total*
Taiwan	1	7	2	2	12
Thailand	2	0	2	0	4
Tunisia	0	0	2	0	2
Turkey	5	4	4	2	15
Ukraine	0	1	0	0	1
United Arab Emirates	9	8	10	3	30
United States	19	21	21	15	76
Venezuela	1	0	0	0	1
Vietnam	1	1	1	1	4
Total	188	239	211	113	751

Regional Growth Fund

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the closing date is for the second tranche of applications to the Regional Growth Fund. [24304]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 23 November 2010]*: The first round of bidding for the Regional Growth Fund opened with the launch of the Local Growth White Paper (28 October), and will close on the 21 January 2011.

Following the closure of the first round and assessment of how that round progressed, the dates for the second round will be announced via the Regional Growth Fund webpage hosted by the BIS website.

It is envisaged that there will be at least three bidding rounds.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms will be in place to ensure fairness in respect of the funding allocated to regions from the regional growth fund. [25288]

Mr Prisk: The regional growth fund is a challenge fund that is open to bids from the private sector, or public private partnership from any part of England. Bids will be expected to demonstrate how they meet the fund's two published objectives:

stimulate enterprise by providing support for projects and programmes with significant potential for economic growth and create additional sustainable private sector employment; and

support in particular those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity.

To help applicants, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has produced guidance that details the criteria that bids will be assessed against to meet the two objectives.

BIS has also published an outline of the fund's appraisal process, part of which includes an assessment by an independent advisory panel chaired by my noble Friend Lord Heseltine. All of these are available on the regional growth fund web page:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/regional-growth-fund

At all stages in the appraisal and approval process, the only criteria applications will be judged against are those that are published. However, this is a challenge fund, which will mean that some bids that meet the criteria will not be successful, as in that particular bidding round there were stronger bids that also meet all the criteria.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the average tuition fees charged by state-funded universities in each other EU member state. [25692]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold any information for benchmarking purposes on the average tuition fees charged by state-funded universities in each EU member state other than the UK.

However, the Department recently published a study which it had commissioned to build the evidence base for the Browne review which contained information on the tuition fees charged in a number of EU and other countries. The study entitled "Review of Student Support Arrangements in Other Countries" by London Economics was published in September 2010:

http://www.bis.gov.Uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/r/10-670-review-student-support-in-other-countries.pdf

Further information on the contributions for tertiary education made by individuals and Government are published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), most recently in their Education at a Glance 2010 publication.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harrow West of 17 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 888W, on students: fees and charges, whether part-time students receiving fees loans on the same basis as full-time students will be subject to the same *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum fee cap as full-time students. [25922]

Mr Willetts: Unlike full-time fees, part-time fees are currently unregulated. We are considering all the issues around support for part-time students in consultation with representatives of the part-time sector. We will announce the details in due course.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish an equality impact assessment of his proposal to increase the maximum level tuition fees before bringing forward his legislative proposals on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [26194]

Mr Willetts: We expect to publish an interim equality impact assessment relating to the Government's proposals for reforms to higher education funding and student finance at the same time as the first draft regulations relating to the these reforms are laid before Parliament. The interim equality impact assessment will include coverage of the proposed increase in the maximum level of charges which universities will be allowed to set. It will be published on the BIS website.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what account he plans to take of recent trends in respect of the number of *(a)* unsuccessful applicants reapplying and *(b)* students who are likely to seek to enter university in 2011-12 in formulating his proposals to increase the level of student fees from 2012-13. [26195]

Mr Willetts: The reforms to the system of higher education (HE) funding are aimed at producing a more sustainable environment in which our HE institutions will be able to flourish. We expect student numbers to be broadly maintained. Our plans for student numbers in 2011-12 will be set out in the Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) grant letter which will be published shortly.

UK Trade and Investment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of UK Trade and Investment activity which relates to *(a)* exports and *(b)* inward investment. [25411]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investments 2009-10 Resource Accounts (HC 3) report that the total budget for UKTI was £350.4 million.

Of this, £270.2 million was spent on activity to enhance the competitiveness of companies in the UK through overseas trade and £80.2 million on activity to attract a continuing high level of quality foreign direct investment.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses UK Trade and Investment has assisted with exports in the last 12 months. [25441]

Mr Prisk: The latest UKTI Performance and Impact Monitoring Survey (PIMS) reported in September 2010. PIMS results against all key performance measures are reported on a rolling four-quarter basis, enabling robust coverage across all UKTI trade services.

Latest results relate to service delivery mainly carried out between April 2009 and March 2010 and show that the number of trade clients helped by UKTI rose to 24,700 (up from 23,700) during the 12 months measured in the survey.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of UK Trade and Investment's clients were small businesses in the latest period for which figures are available. [25442]

Mr Prisk: UKTI supported 24,700 companies during 2009-10; of which 86% of supported firms were SMEs (i.e. <250 employees).

UK Trade and Investment: ICT

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what client relationship management system is used by UK Trade and Investment; and what access other Government Departments have to that system. [25416]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment uses Infor's Epiphany Customer Relationship Management system. This system is accessible to UKTI staff in the UK and overseas and in addition to Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MOD) staff who have a business need to access customer data.

UK Trade and Investment: Yorkshire

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many roadshows or other presentations promoting its activities UK Trade and Investment has undertaken in Yorkshire since May 2010. [25412]

Mr Prisk: UKTI organises events to communicate the importance of trading internationally to companies and to highlight the opportunities in particular markets and sectors. At each event UKTI will explain the support they are able to offer. Since May 2010 UKTI have organised 14 such events in Yorkshire.

Other organisations such as banks, accountants and legal firms organise events for clients and UKTI staff have spoken about international opportunities and support at 20 such events in Yorkshire since May 2010.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent by UK Trade and Investment in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* Yorkshire in the last five years. [25437]

Mr Prisk: The money spent by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) on its trade delivery activity in Yorkshire and Humber over the past five years is as follows:

	£
2006-07	2,868,000
2007-08	2,681,000
2008-09	2,478,000
2009-10	2,562,000
2010-11 (April to October)	1,656,000

Expenditure on sub-regional activity across Yorkshire and the Humber (Y&H) is not available but will broadly reflect the business densities in different parts of the Y&H region. Based on previous activity contracted through Business Link North Yorkshire (up to 31 March 2008), we estimate that around 15% of UKTI's trade delivery expenditure is focused on North Yorkshire.

These figures exclude direct grants that companies obtained from UKTI for attendance at overseas trade fairs and exhibitions.

Workers' Educational Association: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for expenditure on *(a)* the Workers' Educational Association and *(b)* other special designated institutions; and if he will make a statement. [25932]

Mr Hayes: 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' (16 November 2010) sets out the funding strategy for post-19 further education (FE) and skills. In 2011-12 financial year we will invest £3.9 billion to support an expansion of adult (19+) apprenticeships, fully subsidise basic literacy and numeracy and first full level 2 and level 3 qualifications for young adults. We will also support individuals who are unemployed and on active benefits, and protect and reform spending on adult and community learning.

The allocation of funding for the 2011/12 academic year will be carried out by the Skills Funding Agency, over the coming months, in line with the overall post-19 FE and skills funding envelope. This will include making funding allocations for the Workers' Educational Association and other specialist designated institutions.

Yorkshire Forward: Assets

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had on the sale of assets owned by Yorkshire Forward. [25433]

Mr Prisk: This Department has been having ongoing discussions on the principles and process for the disposal of all RDA assets and liabilities. Detailed guidance to RDAs is still being prepared and this will enable plans to be developed for transition. Until these plans are completed there will be no decisions on the sale or transfer of assets (outside ordinary course disposals) unless there are compelling time pressures which require an early decision be made. The plans will aim to secure maximum value for money for the taxpayer and optimum benefits to the region in question.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the amount of surface or near-surface coal available in the UK; and what assessment he has made of its potential contribution to meeting the UK's energy needs. [26131]

Charles Hendry: The following table provides a breakdown of identified surface coal reserves in the UK.

	Million tonnes
Current sites and licences	
Operational sites	40
Planning granted	18
In planning process	20
Pre-planning	54
Prospects previously identified by British Coal	
Well developed	121
Fully and partly proved	142
Potential	474
Total	869

Source:
The Coal Authority, March 2010

The Government's main policy objective in relation to the coal industry is to ensure that the United Kingdom is enabled to make best use of a valuable natural resource where it is economically viable and environmentally acceptable to do so.

In 2009 coal provided 28% of the UK's electricity supply.

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2010, Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Energy: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in each electoral ward in the UK received assistance in respect of each measure delivered by each energy supplier under the Carbon Emission Reduction targets in each quarter from April 2008 to October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [26091]

Gregory Barker: Information on the regional distribution of measures installed under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme was published for the first time on 16 September, demonstrating this Government's commitment to greater transparency. The provision of this information is possible due to a voluntary agreement negotiated by Government with energy suppliers and the Energy Saving Trust. Information on individual energy supplier activity at a regional level is not available.

The Energy Saving Trust report details the number of cavity wall and loft insulation measures installed in each local authority area in Great Britain (CERT is not delivered in Northern Ireland) for each of the first two years of CERT. The report is available at:

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Information/Homes-Energy-Efficiency-Database-HEED/CERT-reports-from-HEED

A copy is available in the Libraries of the House.

Energy: Prices

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what provisions he plans to include in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill to ensure that energy companies enable customers to compare tariffs easily; and if he will make a statement. [25654]

Gregory Barker: The Energy Security and Green Energy Bill will include powers to require energy suppliers to inform consumers through their bills about the cheapest available tariff to give customers greater control over their energy costs.

Heating

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the carbon footprint of heat pumps; and if he will make a statement. [25378]

Gregory Barker: The carbon footprint of a heat pump is dependent on a number of factors including its overall efficiency, whether it is providing space heating and/or hot water, temperature lifts, the refrigerant used, the size of the building, levels of insulation, the hours of operation, and various design, installation and maintenance issues. The EU renewables directive requires that heat pumps must have a minimum Seasonal Performance Factor in order to qualify as a renewable source. The Commission are to issue guidance on how the Seasonal Performance Factor is to be calculated.

An SPF of around 2.7 would make CO_2 emissions from gas condensing boilers and heat pumps more or less equivalent with today's grid intensity. At this level of performance the CO_2 emissions associated with running a heat pump are considerably lower than those associated with using either oil or electric resistive heating. CO_2 savings against all these fuels will improve further, as the electricity grid decarbonises. The Energy Saving Trust field trials are not complete, but, when they are, they will provide useful information on the actual system efficiencies, as well as information to improve installation and maintenance practice.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether loan guarantees constitute a public subsidy for the purposes of his policy on the construction of new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [25630]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 22 November 2010]*: The Government have not had cause to consider any specific proposal for loan guarantees in the context of its policy of no subsidy for new nuclear power. It would not be appropriate to speculate in the absence of any specific proposal, but my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State set out the generality of the Government's policy in a detailed written statement on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 44WS.

Radioactive Waste

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment has been made of the adequacy of capacity of low-level nuclear waste disposal sites. [26064]

Charles Hendry: An extensive review of low level waste (LLW) management practices was carried out for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in 2008, published as the LLW strategic review in January 2009 and made publicly available on the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) website. This review considered all aspects of LLW management including disposal infrastructure.

The strategic review fully recognised that, without improvements in application of the waste hierarchy to avoid waste creation and promote recycling, volume reduction, better waste segregation and use of more appropriate waste disposal routes, the LLWR in Cumbria (which has in the past been the default destination for much LLW) will not provide the capacity required to manage the whole of the UK's projected inventory of LLW. A significant opportunity is to preserve capacity at LLWR for those wastes that require the levels of safety and environmental protection provided by the facility, and to develop better waste segregation and alternative disposal capacity for lower hazard LLW and very low level waste.

A revision of the LLW strategic review is currently underway and will be published in the next few months.

Wind Power

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of energy in the UK will be supplied by wind technology by 2030. [25280]

Charles Hendry: There is currently no target for renewable energy in 2030. Estimates of how much electricity will be supplied by wind in 2030 differ greatly, reflecting high levels of uncertainty. The 2050 pathways analysis[1] has four trajectories for wind development, which have the following implications for wind deployment in 2030 (all shown in TWh/year in 2030):

TWh/year in 2030	*Onshore wind*	*Offshore wind*	*Total wind*
Level 1	22	22	43
Level 2	53	137	190
Level 3	82	213	295
Level 4	113	307	420

Future electricity and energy demand is also uncertain. Under the 2050 alpha scenario, for example (seven pathways were published), onshore wind and offshore are both assumed to be at level 2, and total electricity generation around 563TWh (nearly 50% higher than in 2009). In this scenario (one of many possibilities), wind would represent around 34% of total electricity generation.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has written to the Committee on Climate Change asking them to consider the level of ambition for renewables for 2020 and possible pathways through to 2030. They should provide final recommendations by the end of March 2011.

[1] 2050 Pathways Analysis available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we-do/lc_uk/2050/2050.aspx

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25977]

Mr Paterson: The information is as follow:

(a) The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

(b) In the period from May 2010 to 12 November 2010, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) received a total of nine named day parliamentary questions, of which six (67%) were answered on or before the day named.

All questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 have received a substantive answer.

An estimation of the costs in answering parliamentary questions was provided in a written ministerial statement on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25978]

Mr Paterson: The information is as follows:

(a) The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

(b) My Department does not hold this information in the format requested. In the period from May 2010 to 12 November 2010, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) received a total of 111 ordinary written parliamentary questions, of which 81 (73%) were answered within five sitting days.

All questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 have received a substantive answer.

An estimation of the costs in answering parliamentary questions was provided in a written ministerial statement on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Eames-Bradley Report

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of each written representation received by his Department on the Eames-Bradley report since May 2010. [25733]

Mr Paterson: The public consultation on the Eames-Bradley report took place under the previous Government and I published a detailed summary of the responses in July of this year. I will place a copy of this summary in the Library. The Government have not received formal written representations on the report since May 2010, but continues to receive correspondence on the wider question of dealing with the past, some of which notes the contents of the Eames-Bradley report.

Historical Enquiries Team: Finance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of the funding allocated to the Historical Enquiries Team was spent on *(a)* staff accommodation and *(b)* staff transport costs, including flights, in each of the last three years. [25732]

Mr Paterson: Since the devolution of policing and justice on 12 April 2010, all matters relating to the work of the Historical Enquires Team rest with the Northern Ireland Department of Justice. The hon. Lady may therefore wish to write to the Justice Minister (David Ford) in relation to this matter.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was allocated for *(a)* sign language interpreters, *(b)* palantypists, *(c)* office adjustments and *(d)* other support for people with hearing impairment through the Access to Work scheme in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [23316]

Maria Miller: I am unable to answer this question as the Access to Work management information system does not categorise support provided down to this level of detail.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with hearing impairment participated in the Access to Work scheme in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [23317]

Maria Miller: Access to Work helped the following number of people in each year who said that their primary medical condition was "difficulty in hearing":

	Number
2007-08	4,450
2008-09	4,920
2009-10	5,460

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was allocated to the Access to Work scheme in 2010-11; and how much he plans to allocate to the scheme in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [23333]

Maria Miller: Budgets for directly delivered programmes such as Access to Work are subject to in-year review and it is not possible to specify in advance the amounts that will be spent. Information on spend is however available after the end of a financial year.

Disability Living Allowance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people in receipt of the mobility component of the disability living allowance *(a)* were moved from the higher to the lower rate mobility component and *(b)* had that component of the allowance removed (i) in 2009 and (ii) since May 2010. [26144]

Maria Miller: The proportion of disability living allowance claimants with mobility component in payment who moved from higher to lower rate or had their allowance removed in 2009 is in the following table. This information is not yet available for the period from May 2010.

		Moved from higher to lower rate			*Had allowance removed*	
Quarter to:	*Higher mobility in payment*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Mobility in payment*	*Number*	*Percentage*
February 2009	1,745,830	1,010	0.1	2,623,810	39,140	1.5
May 2009	1,750,760	1,020	0.1	2,643,950	36,620	1.4
August 2009	1,758,140	1,070	0.1	2,667,090	35,910	1.3
November 2009	1,765,610	1,300	0.1	2,689,310	40,730	1.5

Notes:

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Percentages are rounded to one decimal point.
2. "-" = Nil or negligible.
3. Totals show both the number of people in receipt of an allowance and those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. 'Had allowance removed' are those with mobility in payment in the previous quarter who no longer receive a payment.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will reverse his decision to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance for adults in residential care and children in residential special schools. [25631]

Maria Miller: The spending review announced that the mobility component of disability living allowance would be removed from adults in residential care and children in residential schools.

Proposals for disability living allowance reform will be informed by responses to the consultation document which we will publish shortly.

We will be making clearer as we move towards the welfare reform Bill exactly how the measure to cease paying mobility component of DLA to people in care homes will affect particular groups.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to increase the level of access to employment opportunities of disabled people who are able and willing to work. [19584]

Maria Miller: The Department is committed to increasing access to employment opportunities for disabled people and others who experience complex barriers to employment, and to working closely with organisations which will help achieve this aim.

To this end, we will introduce the Work Programme which will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help to a broad range of individuals, including those who may previously have been receiving incapacity benefits for many years. We will offer providers differentiated levels of payment for supporting harder customers into work to ensure it is worthwhile for providers to provide them with support. We aim to have the Work Programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011.

Alongside the Work Programme, we will offer flexible support through Jobcentre Plus. The support Jobcentre Plus delivers to customers across all working age benefits will allow more flexibility to Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers to judge which interventions will help individual customers most cost-effectively and meet local need.

On 25 October 2010 we launched Work Choice, a new pan-disability supported employment programme for disabled people, which provides tailored support and targets those customers who face the most complex barriers in reaching or retaining employment, including self-employment. Under a new funding model in which prime providers work closely with their subcontractors, individuals get early, quality support that helps them progress at work and, where it is appropriate for the individual, helps them move into sustainable long-term employment.

In the coalition agreement we announced

> "We will reform Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already secured for any adaptations and equipment they will need".

We are developing plans for delivering this commitment and further details will be announced in due course.

Future Jobs Fund: Third Sector

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the name is of each third sector organisation funded directly by his Department to implement the future jobs fund; and for how many young people each provided a placement. [23043]

Chris Grayling: The table containing details of the third sector organisations which bid to the fund as lead accountable bodies will be placed in the Library. These organisations were awarded future jobs fund funding.

The future jobs fund was designed to provide temporary jobs for 18 to 24-year-olds and others, including older people, living in disadvantaged areas. Bidders to the fund were required to state how many of the jobs they would deliver were for 18 to 24-year-olds and how many would be for disadvantaged areas. Where this split is known it is reflected in the table.

Homelessness

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to publish each impact assessment undertaken by his Department on the effect on *(a)* homelessness, *(b)* persons living in supported accommodation and *(c)* other vulnerable groups of the public expenditure announcements in the June 2010 Budget and the spending review 2010 prior to the introduction of any relevant legislative proposals. [21323]

Steve Webb: In line with the Department's commitment to transparency, all measures in relation to the Budget and spending review have and will be equality impact assessed. Where the detail of policies is still being developed, we plan to publish at the same time as the Welfare Reform Bill or to accompany the Uprating Order. Some policies, such as the disability living allowance reform will be subject to consultation therefore the equality impact assessment would be published at a later date.

The equality impacts of Budget changes have been published where detail of the policy has been finalised and can be found through this link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/impact%2Dassessments/equality%2Dimpact%2Dassessments/

we will publish, on the spending review web oage, a fuller update on the current position for all relevant policies shortly.

Housing Benefit: Down's Syndrome

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the effects of the proposed changes in the provision of housing benefit for people who have been on jobseeker's allowance for 12 months or more on people with Down's syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [23077]

Steve Webb: The detailed design of the measure is being developed and we are carefully considering the impact on all benefit customers, including those people claiming jobseeker's allowance who have a degree of disability.

While the measure will not apply to people who are not required to seek work, we recognise the specific difficulties that some people face in getting work, and Jobcentre Plus has an integrated system in place to address these diverse needs.

We will publish an equality impact assessment to accompany the Welfare Reform Bill.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23388]

Chris Grayling: The amount spent by DWP on services from the Institute for Fiscal Studies for eight of the last 10 years is shown in the following table. Data for 2001-02 and 2002-03 are not centrally available and would be obtainable only at a disproportionate cost. The 2010-11 value is for the period 1 April to 31 October 2010.

Supplier		*Spend (£)*
Institute For Fiscal Studies	2010-11	50,280
	2009-10	237,800
	2008-09	264,957
	2007-08	189,972
	2006-07	332,062
	2005-06	328,228
	2004-05	197,279
	2003-04	88,542
Total		1,689,120

Of the £35,235 spent since 1 May 2010, £29,990 was for analysis of the Wealth and Assets Survey and was committed to prior to the general election, £5,125 was paid to the IFS to validate the annual poverty statistics (this is a long standing commitment which uses the vast amount of expertise the IFS has in analysing these datasets) and £120 was for miscellaneous costs.

Public Sector: Pay

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many part-time workers who earn £20,000 or more pro rata annually will be affected by the public sector pay freeze; and how many of these part-time workers are women. [14383]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has 18,349 part-time workers earning £20,000 or more (pro rata) of whom 16,417 are female.

However the pay freeze covers employees who earn above £21,000. DWP has 16,184 employees who work part-time and earn more than £21,000 per annum (pro rata) and are therefore affected by the pay freeze. 14,424 of these employees are female. Of all part-time employees, 42% of women and 43% of men working part time are affected by the pay freeze.

Remploy

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what date he plans to determine the future of Remploy. [24158]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas) on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 195W.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect on disabled people of the proposed rise in the state pension age; what estimate he has made of the number of disabled people who will be affected; and if he will make a statement. [23344]

Maria Miller: The Government's full response to the review of State Pension age, "A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66" was published on 3 November. This contains an equality impact assessment including a disability impact.

Vacancies: North West and Flintshire

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were advertised in jobcentres in *(a)* City of Chester constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* Flintshire and *(d)* the North West in September 2010. [17061]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many job vacancies were advertised in jobcentres in (a) City of Chester constituency (b) Cheshire (c) Flintshire and (d) the North West in September 2010. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The data requested for September is not available. The Jobcentre vacancy data for September 2010 has been withdrawn; this is due to problems identified with the source data, which we are currently investigating.

I am able to provide the data for August and October 2010 shown in the following table.

Number of advertised vacancies in the areas shown

Area	*August 2010 live unfilled vacancies*	*October 2010 live unfilled vacancies*
City of Chester	796	1,018
Cheshire	4,053	4,747
Flintshire	922	963
North West	32,778	40,293

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System 19 November 2010

Veterinary Services: Regulation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations govern the work of veterinary surgeons in *(a)* pig and poultry abattoirs and *(b)* meat-cutting plants. [22458]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for official controls in all approved fresh meat establishments in Great Britain to verify that food business operators comply with hygiene and other legislation including animal welfare. Approved fresh meat establishments include abattoirs; cutting plants; game handling establishments; meat preparations and meat products establishments; and co-located cold stores.

Veterinary surgeons working in approved fresh meat establishments are employed either directly or indirectly, as contract staff, by the FSA.

The work which these veterinary surgeons carry out in fresh meat establishments is governed by EC Regulation 854/2004 and the United Kingdom Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate of interest is charged on loans and guarantees made from the Exchequer to financial institutions in public ownership. [22828]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* Details of the loans and guarantees provided by HM Treasury for financial stability purposes to financial institutions partly and wholly owned by the Treasury are set out in the Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2008-09 (HC611) and for 2009-10 (HC261).

The interest rate on HM Treasury's loan to Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc (NRAM) is currently charged at Bank Base Rate plus 25 basis points. The outstanding loan as at 30 June 2010 was £22.5 billion.

NRAM has also been provided with a working capital facility of up to £2.5 billion by HM Treasury which is currently undrawn. Any drawdown on this is subject to a one off utilisation fee of 50 basis points on the amount drawn. NRAM pays HM Treasury a monthly fee of £1 million for HM Treasury's guarantee of its wholesale liabilities.

HMT has removed its retail and wholesale guarantees in place for Northern Rock plc, with the exception of certain fixed term retail and wholesale balances which are guaranteed to maturity. Northern Rock plc pays a fee of 50 basis points on guaranteed retail deposit balances, and a fee of 200 basis points on guaranteed wholesale balances.

The interest rate on the working capital facility provided by HM Treasury to Bradford and Bingley plc (B&B) is currently charged at Bank Base Rate plus 150 basis points. As at 30 June 2010 B&B had drawn £8.5 billion on the working capital facility. In respect of the guarantees provided by HM Treasury, B&B pays a fee of between 120 basis points and 300 basis points on guaranteed wholesale balances depending upon the class of liability.

The interest rate on HM Treasury's loan to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme is charged at 12 month LIBOR plus 30 basis points. This rate is subject to re-negotiation from March 2012.

Child Benefit: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households with a higher rate taxpayer in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow East constituency which receive child benefit. [16980]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* In 2010-11, the number of households with a higher rate taxpayer in Scotland which receive child benefit is 100,000.

Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 614W, on child benefit in Scotland, what the evidential basis is for his estimate that 120,000 households will be affected by the withdrawal of child benefit in 2013. [25757]

Mr Gauke: The information provided in the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 614W, on child benefit in Scotland is based on data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) from 2007-08. These data are used in the Inter-Governmental Tax and Benefit Model (IGoTM) to model household tax and benefit levels, projected to 2013.

Child Tax Credit

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of child tax credit on work incentives; and if he will make a statement. [25666]

Justine Greening: It is the impact of the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important for work incentives, rather than particular aspects of the system in isolation, such as child tax credit.

The new universal credit, introduced over two Parliaments, will replace the current complex system of means-tested working-age benefits with a simple streamlined payment. The universal credit will improve financial work incentives by ensuring that support is reduced at a consistent and managed rate as people return to work and increase their working hours and earnings.

Company Accounts

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on country-by-country reporting of company profits and tax liabilities. [25623]

Mr Gauke: The OECD informal taskforce on tax and development is examining the merits of country-by-country reporting by multinational enterprises, and Ministers are monitoring the progress of this work closely.

Corporation Tax: Financial Services

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total corporation tax receipts attributable to the banking, finance and insurance sector in each year from 1990 to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [25670]

Mr Gauke: Historical figures for corporation tax receipts since 2000-01 paid by the financial sector and several other broadly-defined business sectors are regularly updated and published in Table 11.1, on the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs National Statistics website. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

Equivalent information for years prior to 2000-01 is not available. Historical figures for annual corporation tax receipts were published in Table 1.2 on the HMRC National Statistics website (available here):

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax receipts/1_2_v2_dec05.pdf

Departmental Services: Post Office

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05; [25028]

(2) what services provided by his Department were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier; and what the monetary value was of each such contract in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; [25027]

(3) which services of his Department have been the subject of a contract awarded in a tender process in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid since 1997-98. [25026]

Justine Greening: The total value of payments made by the Treasury each year to the Royal Mail and the Post Office are:

£

Spend (inc. VAT) in financial year	*Royal Mail*	*Post Office Ltd*
2002-03	4,556.89	—
2003-04	2,716.55	—
2004-05	1,234.57	—
2005-06	1,556.47	120,437.50
2006-07	8,275.30	—
2007-08	13,049.04	—
2008-09	15,650.37	—
2009-10	16,364.15	—

Note:
Information prior to 2002-03 is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system at that time.

The Royal Mail provides external mail services to HM Treasury. In 2005 the Post Office provided services in support of a digital media and leaflet campaign.

Records of tenders, contracts and services from the Post Office Ltd from 1997-98 are not held centrally could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dunfermline Building Society: KPMG

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments have been made to KPMG for work as administrators for those elements of the Dunfermline Building Society business not transferred to Nationwide. [25662]

Mr Hoban: KPMG, the administrators of Dunfermline Building Society, publish six-monthly progress reports. These reports include full details of costs charged by KPMG to Dunfermline. The third progress report was sent to all creditors on 26 August 2010. The progress reports are available from the KPMG website:

http://rd.kpmg.co.uk/WhatWeDo/18300.htm

Between 30 March 2009 and 30 July 2010 the remuneration fee paid to KPMG was £13.4 million for their work as administrators.

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what instructions were given to KPMG as administrators on the sale of those elements of the Dunfermline Building Society business not transferred to Nationwide. [25663]

Mr Hoban: On the application of the Bank of England, KPMG were appointed as the building society special administrators of Dunfermline Building Society (DBS) by virtue of an order of the Court of Session dated 30 March 2009.

The objectives of KPMG are set out in the Banking Act 2009 sections 137 to 140 as applied by the order made under section 158 of the Act (S.I. 2009/805).

The objectives are to provide support to the acquirer of assets and liabilities by virtue of an exercise of the resolution powers, and, once that objective has been fulfilled, to achieve a better result for the building society's creditors (including all holders of shares in the society) as a whole.

No directions have been issued to KPMG by the Treasury.

Economic Growth

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of economic growth for each *(a)* region and *(b)* country in the UK for each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [25201]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing the official economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR's Budget forecast does not include a sub-national forecast.

The current forecast, published on 22 June 2010, is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/index.html

The OBR will publish a new forecast on 29 November 2010.

While forecasts for economic growth are not made at a sub-national level, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) annually publishes data on gross value added for the English regions and the devolved countries. This is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14650

and the next publication is expected in December 2010.

Energy: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the outcomes were of his discussions with his G20 counterparts at the recent meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in Gyeongju on energy subsidy reform. [20724]

Justine Greening: G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met on 22-23 October 2010 in Gyeongju, in the Republic of Korea. At this meeting they noted the progress made on rationalising and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and promoting energy market transparency and stability. They agreed to monitor and assess progress towards this commitment at the Seoul Summit.

EU Budget

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast in pounds sterling he has made of the UK contribution to the EU budget in the period 2007-2013 that will result specifically from the application of Article 4(1)(g) of Council Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom to the system of European Communities' own resources. [25699]

Justine Greening: The abatement disapplication was agreed by the previous Government in 2005, and means the UK no longer receives an EU budget rebate on non-agriculture spending in member states that joined the EU after 2004.

According to European Commission figures, the disapplication of the UK abatement referred to in article 4(1)(g) of Council Decision 2007/436/EC costs the UK £286 million in 2009, £1.2 billion in 2010 and £1.98 billion in 2011.

Thereafter, with the abatement disapplication fully phased in, the cost to the UK is expected to be around £2 billion per annum.

This is being phased in as follows:

20% in 2009;

70% in 2010;

100% from 2011.

The total additional cost of the abatement disapplication is capped in the period 2007-13 to a total of €10.5 billion (expressed in 2004 prices).

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's most recent *(a)* outturn, *(b)* estimated and *(c)* forecast figures are in pounds sterling for the UK's gross contribution to the EU budget for the financial year (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11, (iv) 2011-12, (v) 2012-13 and (vi) 2013-14. [25700]

Justine Greening: Table 2.9 of the supplementary material to the June Budget 2010 (see page 27) provides the latest projections for the UK's "Net expenditure transfers to EU institutions" to the EU budget for the fiscal years 2008-09 (outturn) to 2015-16 (forecasts). This is the UK gross national income (GNI) contributions less the UK's abatement. New projections will be provided by the Office of Budget Responsibility in their autumn forecast at the end of November. The following table includes the figures presented in the latest forecast, and historical figures back to 2008-09.

Historical data on the total UK's gross contributions to the EU (net of the abatement) can be found in the table C.1 (page 176) of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, published in July 2010.

The main reasons for the increasing profile of the UK's gross contributions are the increase in the size of the budget and the disapplication of the abatement to non-agricultural spending in the new member states. The EU budget for the period 2007-13 was agreed by the previous Government in 2005.

The Government are very concerned about the UK's growing contributions to the EU budget and are working hard to reduce them. In particular, in the negotiation of the 2011 EU budget, the Government have not reached an agreement with the European Parliament given their wider demands beyond the 2011 EU budget. The Government will continue to engage constructively in further negotiations aimed at securing taxpayers a fair outcome for the 2011 EU budget.

In addition, at the October meeting of the European Council, the UK secured an unprecedented and important new principle. From now on the EU budget will reflect the spending cuts being made by national Governments, including in the crucial 2014-20 EU spending round.

Net expenditure transfers to EU institutions[1]

	£ billion
2008-09	3.1
2009-10	6.4
2010-11	8.3
2011-12	8.3
2012-13	8.3

Net expenditure transfers to EU institutions[1]

	£ billion
2013-14	9.3
2014-15	10.3
2015-16	8.7

[1] "Net expenditure transfers to EU institutions" is the UK GNI contribution less the UK's abatement.

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's most recent *(a)* outturn, *(b)* estimated and *(c)* forecast figures are in pounds sterling for the UK's net contribution to the EU budget for the financial year (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, (iii) 2011-12, (iv) 2012-13 and (v) 2013-14. [25702]

Justine Greening: Table 2.9 of the supplementary material to the June Budget 2010 (see p. 27) provides the latest projections for the UK's net contribution to the EU budget for the fiscal years 2008-09 (outturn) to 2015-16 (forecasts). New projections will be provided by the Office of Budget Responsibility in their autumn forecast at the end of November. The following table include the figures presented in the latest forecast, and historical figures back to 2009-10.

The main reasons for the increasing profile of the UK's net contributions are the increase in the size of the budget and the disapplication of the abatement to non-agricultural spending in the new member states. The EU budget for the period 2007-13 was agreed by the previous Government in 2005.

The Government are very concerned about the UK's growing contributions to the EU budget and are working hard to reduce them. In particular, in the negotiation of the 2011 EU budget, the Government have not reached an agreement with the European Parliament given their wider demands beyond the 2011 EU budget. The Government will continue to engage constructively in further negotiations aimed at securing taxpayers a fair outcome for the 2011 EU budget.

In addition, at the October meeting of the European Council, the UK secured an unprecedented and important new principle. From now on the EU budget will reflect the spending cuts being made by national Governments, including in the crucial 2014-20 EU spending round.

	Net payments to EU institutions[1]	*Net contribution to EU budget*[2]
2009-10	3.8	4.7
2010-11	6.8	7.7
2011-12	6.6	7.6
2012-13	6.6	7.6
2013-14	7.6	8.6
2014-15	8.6	9.5
2015-16	7.3	8.2

[1] "Net payments to EU institutions" is as below, less that part of the UK's contribution that is attributed to the external aid programme.

[2] "Net contribution to EU budget" is the gross national income, VAT and traditional own resources contributions (gross contribution) less the UK's abatement, less public receipts.

EU External Trade: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 549-50W, on EU external trade: Israel, how many incidents HM Revenue and Customs has recorded of false declarations by importers in respect of the preferential origin of goods *(a)* in total and *(b)* under the EU-Israel Trade Agreement in each of the last five years. [25637]

Mr Gauke: The number of cases involving false declarations by importers in respect of preferential origin are as follows:

	Imports from all countries	*Imports under the EU-Israel Agreement*
2006	86	24
2007	98	7
2008	81	8
2009	65	12
2010	46	[1]14

[1] To date.

Each case may involve several import declarations. I am told by HMRC that because country information is maintained on a case by case basis, it would be an onerous task to extract and collate the information in respect of the number of incorrect origin declarations for all countries. However, it is able to provide figures for the number of incorrect origin declarations for goods imported under the EU-Israel Agreement.

	Number
2006	127
2007	214
2008	20
2009	26
2010	[1]47

[1] To date.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 548-9W, on EU external trade: Israel, whether the accompanying documentation indicates Israel as the place of origin; and whether he has received a response from the Israeli authorities. [25638]

Mr Gauke: The documentation accompanying the three consignments of products under Commodity Code 34013000 referred to in the previous answer, in each case showed Israel as the place of origin. HMRC confirms that a response is still awaited from the Israeli authorities.

European Financial Stability Mechanism

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the implementation of the regulation governing the procedure for the European Financial Stability Mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [25687]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* The regulation governing the European Financial Stability Mechanism is based on article 122(2) of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union. The regulation was immediately binding on all member states the day after its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on 12 May. It is activated by the Council acting by Qualified Majority Voting on a proposal from the Commission. The Commission has not yet made a formal proposal.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to publish the outcomes of his Department's review of alcohol taxation and pricing; [25454]

(2) when his Department plans to publish the responses received to its review of alcohol taxation and pricing. [25455]

Justine Greening: The Treasury is considering all responses submitted to the review of alcohol taxation, and will report shortly.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* initiatives and *(b)* projects the Financial Inclusion Fund has funded in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [20338]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* Since 2005 the Financial Inclusion Fund has supported a number of Government projects and initiatives including the following:

A face-to-face money advice project delivered by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills;

A debt advice project in prison locations across England and Wales, delivered by the National Offender Management Service;

A growth fund for credit unions and community development finance institutions, delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions;

A financial inclusion champions initiative, and a public campaign, 'now let's talk money', delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions;

A project to tackle illegal money lending, delivered by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills;

A 'Save Xmas' campaign, delivered by the Office of Fair Trading;

The Financial Inclusion Taskforce.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net effect on tax revenues of the introduction of the 50% tax band; what behavioural assumptions underlie these estimates; and if he will make a statement. [25676]

Mr Gauke: The estimated revenue to be raised from the 50% rate of income tax on incomes over £150,000 was £1.3 billion in 2010-11, £3.1 billion in 2011-12, and £2.7 billion in 2012-13. These estimates are as shown in the March Budget 2010 report, table A11 on page 140, available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/budget2010_annexa.pdf

The 50% tax rate costings include an estimated behavioural response to allow for changes in work effort, tax planning, avoidance, evasion or migration motivated by the tax increase. These factors reduce the potential static yield from the measures by around two-thirds.

Monetary Policy

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much debt interest has been paid on Government securities held by the Bank of England and its subsidiaries in the last 12 months. [16314]

Mr Hoban: In the 12 months to end September 2010, the Bank of England and its subsidiaries have received the following interest on holdings of UK Government debt securities:

	£ million
Banking Department	187
Issue Department	282
Bank of England Asset Purchase Facility Fund Ltd	8,527
Total	8,996

Pensions: Annuities

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to introduce transitional measures for those yet to secure a retirement income who will reach 75 years before his Department removes the requirement to purchase a pension annuity. [13900]

Mr Hoban: The June Budget announced the intention to end the existing rules that create an effective obligation to purchase an annuity by age 75 from April 2011, including transitional arrangements for those yet to secure an income who will reach age 75 in the meantime. These ensure that those up to the age of 77 will not be required to annuitise their pension savings while the changes to the legislation are put in place.

These transitional arrangements were included in the Finance Act 2010 introduced after the emergency Budget which received Royal Assent on 27 July 2010. The relevant parts of the legislation setting out the transitional rules are section 6 and schedule 3 to the Finance (No. 2) Act 2010. The transitional measures are also explained in Budget Note 22, which can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2010/bn22.htm

Public Expenditure

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the spending of each Department in 2008-09 prices was in *(a)* 1996-97, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [25149]

Danny Alexander: Spend for 2009-10 and 2008-09 are sourced directly from the public expenditure statistical analyses, July 2010, Cm 7890. Due to changes in the budgeting framework and machinery of government the Treasury is unable to provide figures which are fully consistent back to 1996-97. The Treasury only maintains the last five years on a consistent basis (i.e. updated to reflect the changes highlighted above). The data for 1996-97 are sourced from PESA 1999-2000, Cm 4201.

The data provided are, therefore, not fully comparable.

PESA 1999-2000, 2008-09 prices

	1996-97 outturn
Departmental expenditure limits	
Education and Employment	18,811
Health	45,344
DETR - Main programme	12,981
DETR - Local Government and Regional Policy	42,053
Home Office	8,642
Legal Departments	3,527
Defence	28,713
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,414
International Development	2,814
Trade and Industry	4,471
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	2,848
Culture, Media and Sport	1,288
Social Security (administration)	4,719
Scotland	17,329
Wales	8,693
Northern Ireland	7,192
Chancellor's Departments	3,875
Cabinet Office	1,552
Annually managed expenditure	
Social Security benefits	120,513
Housing Revenue Account Subsidies	5,618
Common Agricultural Policy	3,932
Exports Credits Guarantee Department	91
Net public service pensions	6,714
National Lottery	489
Total departmental spending	353,624

PESA 2010, 2008-09 prices

	2008-09 outturn	*2009-10 estimated outturn*
Total spending by departmental group:		
Education	62,999	66,478
Health	108,674	117,712
Transport	13,260	14,399
CLG Communities	12,307	13,688
CLG Local Government	25,433	25,585
Business, Innovation and Skills	22,795	26,576
Home Office	10,560	10,899
Justice	10,166	10,670
Law Officers' Departments	731	721
Defence	40,488	44,129
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	2,145	2,265
International Development	5,830	6,870
Energy and Climate Change	4,079	6,702
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2,864	2,971
Culture, Media and Sport	6,733	6,970
Work and Pensions	143,356	153,756
Scotland	29,590	30,553
Wales	14,382	15,383
Northern Ireland Executive	15,470	16,530
Northern Ireland Office	1,582	1,444
Chancellor's Departments	161,576	79,449
Cabinet Office	9,306	9,608
Independent Bodies	798	841
Allowance for Shortfall	—	-2,557
Total departmental spending	705,125	661,642

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs has received about the availability of its VAT helpline in the latest period for which figures are available. [25610]

Mr Gauke: HMRC contact centres received eight complaints in October 2010 from customers who were unable to get through to its VAT and Excise helplines.

Tax Yields: Savings

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue attributable to tax on savings income in each year from 1990 to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [25672]

Mr Hoban: Figures for the revenue arising from the taxation of savings income from 1997-98 to 2010-11 are shown in the following table. Figures for the years before 1997 are not available.

	Income tax from savings (£ million)
1997-98	4,140
1998-99	5,490
1999-2000	4,230
2000-01	3,480
2001-02	3,420
2002-03	2,770
2003-04	2,780
2004-05	3,760
2005-06	4,640
2006-07	5,120
2007-08	7,080
2008-09	5,360
2009-10	1,660
2010-11	1,850

Taxation: Graduates

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the amount of net revenue to the Exchequer which would be raised by a graduate tax of 2 per cent. of graduates' income for 20 years. [15349]

Mr Gauke: Making an accurate estimate of the amount of yield from a graduate tax of 2% of a graduate's income over 20 years is dependent on a variety of criteria and behavioural impacts. We are therefore unable to provide an estimate of the yield as requested. To do so would be misleading on the basis of the evidence we have available at the present time.

Taxation: Inspections

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many inspections HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors have carried out in respect of small and medium-sized enterprises in each year since 2000; [20519]

(2) how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer as a result of inspections of the tax affairs of small and medium-sized enterprises in each year since 2000; [20520]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor of inspections of small and medium-sized enterprises in each year since 2000; [20521]

(4) what criteria HM Revenue and Customs takes into account when determining whether to investigate the tax affairs of a small or medium-sized enterprise. [20851]

Mr Gauke: We are not able to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost. However, we are able to provide information since the creation of our small and medium enterprise (SME) customer group in Local Compliance. The criteria of this customer group will not exactly match those of the small and medium-sized enterprises asked about because SMEs are managed by many areas of HMRC such as Charities, Assets and Residence (CAR).

	2007-08	*2008-09*
Total settled interventions (number)	210,000	220,000
Total revenue accrued (£ billion)	1.5	2.0

Due to the nature of the way these data are collated we are not able to break down the cost to HMRC of small and medium-sized enterprise interventions.

HMRC determines to investigate cases on the basis of an identified risk or as part of our ongoing random inquiry programme. HMRC uses a range of information sources and risk identification systems to identify SMEs that potentially may not have declared the correct amount of tax.

Trading Funds

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the effects on the economy of the commercial activities of Government trading funds. [25282]

Danny Alexander: Government have not undertaken a specific assessment on the effects on the economy of the commercial activities of their trading funds. However, these bodies make an important contribution to the economy, at the regional and national level, both through their own employment base and since public data which they produce can be used by other companies to produce value-added data products which can help stimulate growth.

Working Tax Credit

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* work incentives, *(b)* levels of employment and *(c)* public expenditure of raising the minimum hour requirement for working tax credit from 16 hours per week to 30 hours per week; and if he will make a statement. [25667]

Justine Greening: People who work less than 30 hours are not generally entitled to working tax credit. However, the qualifying requirement is lower for some groups because they face greater barriers to working longer hours. For single adults with a child, or those with a disability, the qualifying requirement is 16 hours.

The new universal credit, introduced over two Parliaments, will replace the current complex system of means-tested working-age benefits with a simple streamlined payment. The universal credit will improve financial work incentives by ensuring that support is reduced at a consistent and managed rate as people return to work and increase their working hours and earnings.

CABINET OFFICE

Employment: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population in Pendle constituency is employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [25904]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population in Pendle constituency is employed in the (a) public and (b) private sector. (25904)

Public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). According to APS figures, in the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010, 78 per cent of the working population of Pendle constituency was employed by the private sector with the remaining 22 per cent employed in the public sector.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Government Departments: Devolution

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has for a review of the role of devolution champions in Government Departments. [25728]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to taking forward the devolution settlements in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as a key part of their political reform agenda. Senior leadership, including devolution champions, within UK Government Departments have an important role to play in maximising departmental capacity to deal with the issues raised by the devolution settlements. This is part of a wider approach to enhancing the capacity of the UK Government to deal with devolution issues. We keep the approach under review to ensure it continues to meet this objective.

Ombudsman

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the use of the word ombudsman to limit its use to dispute-resolving bodies and other official organisations. [25606]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office guidance "Ombudsman Schemes—Guidance for Departments" provides advice to Departments when setting up Ombudsman schemes or similar complaint-handling schemes, including the use of the term 'Ombudsman'.

A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library of the House and can also be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://download.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ombudsman/ombudsman-schemes-guidance.pdf

Unemployment: Older People

Mr Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people between the ages of *(a)* 50 and 55, *(b)* 55 and 60 and *(c)* 60 and 65 are not in employment; and if he will make a statement. [25668]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of people between the ages of a) 50 and 55 b) 55 and 60 and c) 60 and 65 are not in employment (25668).

The table provided shows Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for individuals not in employment the UK.

Table 1: Number and proportion of people of who are not employed in the UK

	Quarter three 2010	
		Not seasonally adjusted
Age	*Thousand*	*Percentage*[1]
50 to 54	823	20.7
55 to 59	1,026	28.9
60 to 64	2,084	56.0

[1] Percentage of relevant age band population.

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Working Hours

Mr Laws: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people worked *(a)* less than 16 hours per week, *(b)* exactly 16 hours per week, *(c)* more than 30 hours per week and *(d)* more than 35 hours per week on average in each year from 1990 to 2010. [25677]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people worked a) less than 16 hours per week, 2) exactly 16 hours per week, c) more than 30 hours per week and d) more than 35 hours per week on average in each year from 1990 to 2010 (25677).

The table provided shows Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates for quarter three of each year from 1992 to 2010. Estimates prior to 1992 are not available.

Usual weekly hours of work in the UK[1]*, Quarter 3 each year, 1992 to 2010*

				Thousand
	Less than 16 hours per week	*Exactly 16 hours per week*	*More than 30 hours per week*	*More than 35 hours per week*
1992	2,432	289	18,881	17,230
1993	2,417	299	18,693	17,094
1994	2,434	313	18,787	17,217
1995	2,542	331	19,471	17,849
1996	2,533	375	19,452	17,822
1997	2,516	377	19,751	18,074
1998	2,459	411	19,970	18,277
1999	2,478	432	20,151	18,435
2000	2,435	428	20,240	18,394
2001	2,260	468	20,424	18,596
2002	2,411	524	20,489	18,541
2003	2,411	524	20,489	18,541
2004	2,312	537	20,591	18,574
2005	2,285	573	20,982	18,894
2006	2,319	581	20,978	18,874
2007	2,270	596	21,161	19,011
2008	2,270	667	21,242	19,100
2009	2,313	700	20,469	18,379
2010	2,388	770	20,406	18,244

[1] Total usual weekly hours worked by people aged 16 and over in main job including paid and unpaid overtime.

Source:

Labour Force Survey

EDUCATION

Academies

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Don Valley constituency, *(b)* Doncaster local education authority area and *(c)* England had registered an interest in becoming an academy school on the latest date for which figures are available. [11642]

Mr Gibb: As at 19 November 2010, two schools in the Don Valley constituency, seven schools within Doncaster local education authority and 1,936 schools in England had registered an interest in becoming an academy.

A list of all outstanding and non-outstanding schools that have registered an interest in converting to academy status was published on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0061400/schools-registering-interest-or-submitting-an-application

on 25 June 2010.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools have been informed their application for academy status in September 2010 *(a)* has been granted and *(b)* has not been granted. [12553]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* The list of schools that have applied to convert to an academy has been published on our website at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

The list of schools that opened in September has also been published on our website. Ministers are still considering applications from schools and are keen to work with schools to convert when they feel ready to do so.

Academies: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many enquiries about Academy status he has received from schools in Maidstone and the Weald constituency; [21484]

(2) how many Academy schools he expects to open in Maidstone and the Weald constituency in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [21485]

Mr Gibb: No academies are due to open in Maidstone and the Weald in 2010. However, the St Augustine's Academy will open in September 2011, replacing the Astor of Hever Community School.

10 schools in the Maidstone and Weald constituency have expressed an interest in converting to academy status, of which two are judged to be outstanding by Ofsted. Neither of those two schools has yet applied to convert.

The latest list of primary and secondary schools within England that have expressed an interest in academy status is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0061400/schools-registering-interest-or-submitting-an-application

Academies: Special Educational Needs

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms exist to safeguard the interests of *(a)* hard to place children, *(b)* children with special educational needs and *(c)* other children with specific needs educated in academy schools; and what mechanisms there are to safeguard the interests of the parents of such children. [7675]

Mr Gibb: Before the Academies Act 2010, academies were already required to use their best endeavours to meet any special needs of pupils, have regard to the Special Education Needs (SEN) code of practice, have an SEN policy and appoint a suitable person to co-ordinate SEN provision.

Where an academy fails to meet its SEN obligations, the Young People's Learning Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has the role of ensuring that these obligations are met. Academy parents and pupils also have the same rights of access to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability). In practice this means that children in academies already had very similar rights and protections to children in maintained schools.

Where a child has a statement of SEN, the local authority retains both the funding for the appropriate provision, and the responsibility for ensuring that it is provided. As a result of the Academies Act, any new academy and any existing academy which moves to the new Funding Agreement (the contract between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State) is under exactly the same duties as maintained schools in relation to children with SEN.

In relation to admissions, academies must comply with the School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code in the same way as maintained schools. This protects the interests of hard to place pupils and pupils with a statement of SEN. All maintained schools and academies must participate in their local authority's Fair Access Protocol in order to ensure that unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable, are offered a place at a suitable school in their home local authority as quickly as possible.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for construction under the Building Schools for the Future programme in Bolton. [3580]

Mr Gibb: Following the Secretary of State's announcement on 5 July and 6 August 2010, the position for the Building School for the Future programme in Bolton is as follows:

	Position
Bolton St Catherine's Academy	Unaffected
Essa Academy	Unaffected
Kearsley Academy	Academy—decision on any capital allocation to be taken in the next few months
Bolton Muslim Girls' School	Stopped
Ladybridge High School	Stopped
Little Lever Specialist Language College	Stopped
Rumworth Special School	Stopped
Sharples School	Stopped
Smithills	Stopped
Westhoughton High	Stopped

The decision to end the wasteful and bureaucratic BSF programme does not mean the end of the capital investment in schools. Future capital spending will be prioritised on the basis of the outcome of the Capital Review by Sebastian James, due to report by the end of the calendar year.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the costs incurred by *(a)* the London Borough of Camden, *(b)* the London Borough of Brent, *(c)* Hampstead School, *(d)* Jack Taylor's School, *(e)* Royal Free Children's School and *(f)* Queen's Park Community School in respect of their preparation and presentation of bids for inclusion in the Building Schools for the Future programme. [11832]

Mr Gibb: The cost to local authorities of reaching the point of entry to the Building Schools for the Future programme (i.e. reaching the Remit meeting) is not held. It is likely to be relatively low given that the only requirement at this stage was the completion of a 20 page Readiness to Deliver statement, which was based on information the local authority would normally hold.

The typical cost to a local authority of reaching Outline Business Case approval once it has entered the programme is estimated at £1.67 million.

For projects that have entered in to procurement, the additional cost to progress from Outline Business Case to Close of Dialogue is estimated at £1.7 million.

The figures stated above are on the basis of a Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Local Education Partnership procurement with two sample schemes.

The Department for Education does not hold data on the cost to individual schools of the BSF programme. This will vary locally depending on the arrangements between individual local authorities and schools.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who are expected to *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of removal of education maintenance allowance; and what estimate he has made of the average amount by which the income of affected households will change as a result of this measure. [21918]

Mr Gibb: The EMA take-up data for England show that around 650,000 young people received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year as at 31 August 2010.

From 2011/12 education maintenance allowances will be replaced by an enhanced learner support fund that will be administered by schools and colleges themselves, targeting those young people who face a real financial barrier to participation.

Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living. The data are sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS)[1] which collects detailed financial information across a range of income streams including income from the education maintenance allowance. There are concerns as to the reliability of EMA data on the FRS with a small number of relevant cases and amounts received being, in some instances, inconsistent with the implied entitlement. Therefore estimates of the impact of the removal of EMA on child poverty rates should be treated with some caution. However, data from 2008/09 suggest that the removal of EMA will have a negligible impact on the number of children in poverty.

---

[1] Estimates from the Family Resources Survey are presented rounded to the nearest 100,000 households. If the figure is less than 50,000, this would be rounded down to zero, so instead such figures are presented as "less than 50,000" or "negligible".

Education: Autism

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that children with autism receive adequate support and assistance during the transition from primary to secondary education; and if he will make a statement. [19590]

Sarah Teather: Schools, and for children with special educational needs (SEN) statements, local authorities have responsibilities to ensure that children with SEN, including children with autism, make successful transitions between primary and secondary education. There is statutory guidance on this transition in the SEN code of practice. Advice is also available from other schools and local authorities, autism specialists and guidance previously published by the Department, such as 'Supporting pupils on the autism spectrum', published as part of the Inclusion Development Programme, and from the Autism Education Trust, which the Department funds and which has published a Transition Toolkit. The Department is aware that the transition from primary to secondary school can be particularly difficult for children with autism because of their resistance to change and will monitor research which is being conducted on this issue, such as that which is being carried out currently by the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust.

The Government aim to publish a Green Paper on SEN and disability shortly. The Green Paper will set out how the Government intend to make the SEN system better for children with SEN, including those with autism, and their families.

Free Schools

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in respect of how many independent schools an application to participate in the free schools programme has been approved. [22228]

Mr Gibb: As of 5 November 2010, three free school proposals from existing independent schools have been approved to progress to the business case and plan stage. The Free School programme aims to improve choice and drive up standards for all young people, regardless of their background. I welcome applications from independent schools that increase the diversity of provision in their area and provide an opportunity to bring high quality places into the state sector.

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the provision of support for participation by independent schools in the free schools programme. [22229]

Mr Gibb: The Free School programme aims to improve choice and drive up standards for all young people, regardless of their background. I welcome applications from independent schools that increase the diversity of provision in their area and provide an opportunity to bring high quality places into the state sector. Any independent school becoming a free school will of course not be able to retain any form of selection by ability. Free schools will be all-ability schools required to abide by the admissions code.

Free Schools: Academies

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether a free school may achieve academy status under the provisions of the Academies Act 2010. [21616]

Mr Gibb: Free Schools will be set up as Academies under the provisions of the Academies Act 2010.

Free Schools: Teachers

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* minimum qualification, *(b)* minimum age and *(c)* maximum age requirement will be to teach at a free school. [20146]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* Innovation, diversity and flexibility are at the heart of the Free Schools policy. We want the dynamism that characterises the best independent schools to drive up standards in the state sector. In this spirit we will not be setting overly prescriptive requirements in relation to qualifications: instead we will expect business cases to demonstrate how governing bodies intend to guarantee the highest quality of teaching and leadership in their schools. No school will be allowed to proceed unless its proposals for quality teaching are soundly based. Ensuring each Free School's unique educational vision is translated into the classroom will require talented people with a diverse range of experience. As is the case with all schools, Free Schools will be subject to employment law and the Equalities Act 2010 with regard to age requirements.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of developing a formal funding agreement with the New Schools Network; and if he will make a statement; [21622]

(2) whether the contract awarded to the New Schools Network was advertised prior to its award; [21623]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 357W, on the New Schools Network, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the applicability of HM Treasury guidance to his decision *(a)* not to develop a formal funding agreement with the New Schools Network and *(b)* to enter into a funding agreement with the New Schools Network; [21624]

(4) what advice he received from his Department in respect of the application of competitive tendering procedures to the allocation of funding to the New Schools Network; [21625]

(5) what consideration he gave to inviting other eligible organisations to bid for the funding awarded to the New Schools Network. [21626]

Mr Gibb: My officials have now finalised a grant agreement (rather than a contract) with New Schools Network (NSN) to provide advice to groups wishing to establish free schools. The Department considered carefully the options for securing the requisite services from an external organisation. Given the need for specialist skills and experience to be in place quickly it was decided to award a time limited grant to NSN. In doing so the Department took account of the UK Public Procurement Regulations 2006 and the Compact Commissioning Guidance. There have been no discussions with the Treasury on these matters.

NSN has championed the development of parent and teacher promoted schools and has been providing advice and support to those interested in establishing new schools since 2009. It has also been developing networks among interested groups and individuals. This experience makes it ideally placed to fulfil the role. The Department has given similar grants in the past, such as to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the Youth Sport Trust, the Holocaust Educational Trust and the National Literacy Trust.

Schools: Admissions

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the admissions policy used by *(a)* academies and *(b)* other maintained schools. [22279]

Mr Gibb: The chief schools adjudicator has, in his annual report, published on 1 November, reported that he and his adjudicators consider that arrangements are getting better.

Nevertheless, I have indicated my intention to review the admissions framework, including the Admissions Code, with a view to making it simpler, fairer and less bureaucratic.

Schools: Playing Fields

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for requirements to provide outdoor space at *(a)* free schools and *(b)* academy schools. [21618]

Mr Gibb: Academies and Free Schools are subject to the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010. These regulations require that there should be appropriate arrangements for providing outside space for pupils to play safely.

The terms of reference for the current review of capital investment in schools, early years units, colleges and sixth forms include the review and reform of the requirements on schools including regulations, design requirements and playing field requirements.

Teachers: Pay

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on *(a)* the teacher pay structure and *(b)* eligibility for teaching and learning responsibility payments; and if he will make a statement. [10063]

Mr Gibb: The Government want to reform the existing rigid national pay and conditions rules to give schools greater freedoms to pay good teachers more.

The Department consulted teacher and head teacher unions, employers and governor representatives on changes to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (the Document) and the accompanying statutory guidance for September 2010. The main changes result from decisions made following a series of recent School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) recommendations, including changes to pay scales to implement the 2.3% pay increase, and to pay arrangements for teachers of pupils with special educational needs (SEN). We received nine responses to the statutory consultation on the Document which ended on 30 July, which were broadly supportive of these changes.

In addition there was a request to amend the teaching and learning responsibility (TLR) provisions; and eight requests to refer the matter of a proposed upper limit on leadership group remuneration to the STRB. Outside the consultation, seven teacher and head teacher unions also wrote to the Secretary of State about the proposal to implement an upper limit on leadership group remuneration. The Secretary of State wrote to the Chair of the STRB on 4 August to say that consideration of a limit on head teacher pay will be included in a future remit.

The Department also recently consulted on changes to the statutory guidance which accompanies the Document. Nine responses were received to the statutory consultation which ended on 25 August. Although the responses were broadly supportive, three consultees made reference to the award of TLRs; six consultees suggested revised wording for the statutory guidance on SEN allowances for teachers which have informed amendments to the statutory guidance.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to implement obligations under Articles 7, 23 and 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to his Department's policy responsibilities. [21127]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education is committed to the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and to improving outcomes for disabled children and young people. The UK Government will report to the UN Committee in July 2011, setting out how implementation has been achieved across Government.

We are determined to raise the achievement and well-being of children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children. We are aiming to publish a SEN and Disability Green Paper. The Green Paper will consider how we can achieve better educational outcomes and life chances for disabled children and young people and those with SEN—from the early years through to the transition into adult life and employment. The Green Paper will seek to make radical improvements to the entire SEN and disability system for disabled children and young people. It will explore issues such as school choice, early identification and assessment, funding systems and family support in order to make life better for children with SEN and their parents.

We have carried out an open 'call for views' exercise and we intend to engage directly with disabled children, young people and parents of disabled children as part of the Green Paper consultation process.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 25 November 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK Permanent Representation to the European Union is taking to ensure that the Government's objectives for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the provisions of article 5 of the EU food supplements directive are met. [26048]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

I wrote to European Commissioner John Dalli in October to raise industry concerns and I met with him on 19 November to discuss this issue. The Commissioner recognises the concerns raised and has provided reassurance that the levels will be set based on risk assessment and potential harm and take account the concerns expressed by all interested parties. No further meetings are planned at this stage.

The Department works closely with the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to secure the UK's objectives in negotiations. However, the European Commission has yet to publish its proposal for maximum levels and discussions are not expected to resume until spring 2011.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Leader of the House for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Office of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25981]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Leader of the House for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Office of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25982]

Sir George Young: Of the parliamentary questions tabled to the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons between May 2010 and 12 November 2010, all 20 named day questions have been answered on the day named for answer and all 34 ordinary written questions within a working week.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions. As of 20 January 2010, the estimated cost of preparing an answer to each named day and ordinary written question is £154.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Attorney-General for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to the Law Officers' Departments of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25963]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Attorney-General for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to the Law Officers' Departments of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25964]

The Solicitor-General: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The information requested from May 2010 is contained within the following tables:

Named day questions

	2010-11 Session[1]
Total received	31
Answered on the named day	27
Proportion answered on the named day (%)	87
Awaiting answer	1

[1] Figures based on recorded data as at 22 November 2010.

Ordinary written questions

	2010-11 Session[1]
Total received	96
Answered within five sitting days of tabling[2]	79 (82%)
Answered within 10 sitting days of tabling[2]	91 (94.5%)
Awaiting answer	3

[1] Figures based on recorded data as at 22 November 2010.

[2] Attorney General's Office data on the answering of questions are collected only on the basis of sitting days rather than calendar days, in accordance with the convention that questions should be answered within a parliamentary working week.

It is not possible to provide reliable estimates of the actual costs involved in answering both types of questions, as the amount of time spent on drafting each answer and the staff grades involved in each case are not recorded centrally.

The Treasury routinely carries out annual indexation exercises to estimate the costs of answering oral and written parliamentary questions. The latest revised cost estimate for written parliamentary questions of £154 was presented to the House in a written statement made by the former Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will have discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effects of reductions to the bus subsidies and local government transport grant on the mobility of those seeking work. [24820]

Norman Baker: Officials at the Department for Transport are working with their counterparts at the Department for Work and Pensions to gain a better understanding of the role that transport plays in tackling unemployment. When appropriate, I regularly meet with my ministerial colleagues to address key cross-departmental concerns, but there are currently no formal plans to discuss this particular issue.

The outcome of the spending review for local transport funding gives greater flexibility to local authorities when it comes to investment in transport. In addition, local authorities will be able to bid for funding under the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund to address mobility to work in a carbon reduction context. Guidance on the bidding process for the new fund will be published shortly.

I expect local authorities to work in partnership with transport operators and the local community to find transport solutions tailored for the specific needs and circumstances of individual communities.

I spoke to the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, who represent the bus industry, following the Chancellor's announcement on 20 October. They were hopeful that, in general, the 20% reduction in the Bus Service Operators Grant could be absorbed without fares having to rise.

Invalid Vehicles

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require users of all categories of mobility scooters to take out third party insurance; and if he will make a statement. [25155]

Norman Baker: This was a matter considered as part of the Department for Transport's consultation, launched in March 2010, on proposed changes to the laws governing mobility vehicles. We are currently considering responses to the consultation and will make a decision on whether changes are necessary in due course. The objective will be to balance carefully the mobility needs of disabled people with the safety of other road users.

Seafaring Careers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills the promotion of commercial on-shore and commercial seafaring careers. [23451]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has been in regular contact and has attended meetings held by the Business, Innovation and Skills Department on seafarer qualifications and training. These discussions, which include industry and trade union representatives, are ongoing. Maritime sector qualifications will shortly be included in the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

Severn River Crossing: Tolls

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the level of tolls on the Severn Crossing. [25601]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport has met with the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport for Wales, where the Severn bridges were discussed in general.

Transport: Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he made of his Department's *(a)* combined capital and revenue funding for local transport, *(b)* capital funding for local transport, *(c)* revenue funding for local transport, *(d)* Integrated Transport Block funding and *(e)* major schemes funding for (i) 2010-11 (A) prior to and (B) after his Department's in-year spending reductions, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) each of the subsequent two years. [22268]

Norman Baker: The following table sets out the level of funding provided to local authorities from 2010-11 to 2014-15:

Local transport funding 2010-11 to 2014-15

£ million

	2010-11					
	Pre-reduction	*Post-reduction*[1]	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Total capital funding[2]	2,145	1,874	1,554	1,503	1,465	1,664
Of which:						
Integrated Transport Block	602	451	300	320	320	450
Of which:						
Major schemes	555	494	418	364	335	427
Total resource funding[3]	486	449	378	401	413	420
Total	2,631	2,323	1,932	1,904	1,878	2,084

[1] Resource funding figures for each year reflect amounts paid or available to local authorities and include some changes in composition.

[2] Maintenance figures within the overall capital and resource total funding figures exclude emergency funding following severe weather.

[3] Resource figures include funding which will transfer to Department for Communities and Local Government budgets from 2011-12.

Notes:

1. The Department's resource allocation for 2010-11 to local authorities for schemes being delivered through the private finance initiative (PFI) is £170 million. Following the spending review the Department announced that the resource allocation for local authority PFI projects 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 will be £195 million, £239 million, £311 million and £320 million. These figures are not included in the table as they are not directly comparable with previous arrangements.

2. All specific rail grants (excluding funding for the Nexus Metro) are excluded from the table.

In addition to the capital funding shown in the table above, the Department for Transport is contributing around a third of the funding for the coalition Government's £1.4 billion regional growth fund. The fund aims to stimulate sustainable economic growth, led by the private sector.

Separate arrangements are in place for funding Transport for London. Prior to in-year savings, funding for TfL in 2010-11 consisted of:

Greater London Authority transport grant of £2,871,589,000

Two capital grants towards costs associated with the former Metronet PPP, totalling £392,500,000

London Overground grant of £24,932,347

A small number of other smaller payments

As a result of in-year savings, total funding for TfL in 2010-11 was reduced by £108 million.

The Secretary of State set out his intentions in relation to funding for Transport for London for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 in a letter to the Mayor of London dated 20 October. This letter has been published on the Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/letters/tflfunding/

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Angola: Land Mines

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what reports he has received of the number of fatalities as a result of landmine explosions in the areas of Angola in respect of which his Department funded mine clearance in the last five years; [26050]

(2) how many mines were cleared in each area of Angola in respect of which his Department funded mine clearance in the last five years; [26051]

(3) which areas of Angola will be affected by the implementation of his decision to end his Department's funding for mine clearance in that country; [26052]

(4) for what reasons he decided to end his Department's funding for mine clearance in Angola; [26053]

(5) what impact assessment he has undertaken of his proposal to end his Department's funding for mine clearance in Angola. [26054]

Mr Duncan: Mine clearance programmes in Angola funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) cleared around 6,000 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines in 2005, 8,000 in 2006, 11,500 in 2007, 12,000 in 2008 and 7,000 in 2009. From 2009, work was concentrated in Kuando Kubango province, with smaller programmes in Bie, Huambo and Benguela. In addition DFID has funded clearance in Moxico province, clearing a further 3,059 items in 2009-10.

The demining work DFID has supported in Angola has made large areas of land accessible to local civilian populations. It is our assessment that the majority of mines remaining in Angola are in more remote areas where there is less impact on civilian populations. Angola's Inter-sectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) reported that annual casualties decreased from around 250 per year in 2002-05 to around 50 by 2008. Landmine Monitor 2010 identified 28 casualties in Angola, a relatively small percentage of the worldwide total of 3,956.

While there is still work to be done, Angola is a middle income country, with national authorities that are well placed to complete this work. Our work aims to support demining that contributes to development, help Governments assume increasing responsibility for resolving problems caused by mines and improve value for money through increased efficiency. Ceasing funding to Angola will allow us to allocate more resources to mine-affected countries where our funding will have greater development impact.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25942]

Mr Duncan: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions (PQs) for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

Between 18 May 2010 and 18 November 2010 the Department for International Development (DFID) received 426 ordinary written PQs, of which 406 were answered within five sitting days. All ordinary written PQs answered after the five sitting day deadline were answered within 14 days. 13 ordinary written PQs tabled between 12 May and 12 November remained unanswered on 18 November, of which 12 were answered within the five sitting day deadline and one was answered late after seven sitting days.

DFID has not made an estimate of the average cost to the Department of answering an ordinary written PQ on the day named for answer. Her Majesty's Treasury estimates the average cost of answering a written question to be £154.

During the current parliamentary Session, DFID has answered 96% of all ordinary written PQ on time, within five sitting days. Efforts are in place to achieve 100%.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to meet the commitment in the Coalition Agreement to focus on children with disabilities in the Government's work to expand access to education. [26066]

Mr Duncan: The Coalition Government are committed to helping achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for education, and as we stated in "The Coalition: Our Programme for Government" we will prioritise aid spending on programmes to ensure that everyone has access to education; including recognising the rights of children with disabilities.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing its entire aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer. These reviews will inform our ongoing policy, including that on education for children with disabilities.

In the meantime DFID recently published a Guidance Note on inclusive education for children with disabilities in developing countries. This note, which is available on the DFID website, offers practical suggestions on how children with disabilities can be supported in their access to education.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help developing countries expand access to free healthcare; and if he will make a statement. [25900]

Mr Duncan: Promoting health and human well-being is at the heart of the UK Government's approach to international development. Nobody should die or suffer ill-health because they are too poor to afford treatment. That is why the British Government support international efforts to achieve universal coverage of basic health services.

The Department for International Development is helping many developing countries to make health care free at the point of use by introducing fair health financing systems. For example, in Sierra Leone the UK has supported the launch of free health care for children under the age of five, and for pregnant and breastfeeding women. We will also support the World Health Organisation to help countries implement the recommendations on equitable health financing strategies of this year's World Health Report.

Developing Countries: Water

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on ensuring that those delivering his Department's water and sewerage projects in developing countries use *(a)* appropriate, *(b)* affordable and *(c)* sustainable technologies. [26026]

Mr Duncan: The technology used in the water and sanitation programmes funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) is based on what works in each specific situation, taking into account technical, economic, social and institutional factors. The choice of technology is primarily determined by our developing country partner.

Technology is selected according to its appropriateness. It must meet national guidelines and local users' requirements; demonstrate affordability in terms of both the capital and recurrent costs; and sustainability. This means that the technology can be easily managed by users with limited external support, does not require significant energy inputs, is registered in the public domain, can be manufactured or constructed by local private providers, and is available in the local market.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government plan to take to ensure efficiency and transparency in the distribution of their budgets for clean water and sanitation provision in developing countries; and what steps they plan to take in such distribution to *(a)* minimise opportunities for corruption and *(b)* maximise the effect of such funding on vulnerable people. [26027]

Mr Duncan: Under the new UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, we will publish full and detailed information on all new projects and programmes, including those on water and sanitation. The Independent Commission for Aid Impact will also independently evaluate the effectiveness of our programmes.

Our water and sanitation programmes are implemented in accordance with the Department for International Development's (DFID's) policies that seek to protect our funds by: assessing the national, sectoral and project specific risks carefully, this assessment then being checked by external experts; ensuring that partner Governments have a credible reform programme to improve their systems and providing technical support to help them; and using safeguards to prevent the misuse of funds, including regular audit procedures.

In programming our work in the water and sanitation sector we especially target the delivery of services to the poorest and most vulnerable people in the poorest countries.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to take steps to ensure that information on *(a)* expenditure and *(b)* outcomes of expenditure by the water sector in delivering clean water and sanitation in developing countries is made publicly available. [26095]

Mr Duncan: Under the new UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, we will publish full and detailed information on all new projects and programmes, including those on water and sanitation. In addition, the Department for International Development's (DFID) Business Plan 2011-15 commits to publish data on a regular basis against a sanitation impact indicator. The Business Plan is available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects his Department to complete its plans to implement the in-service elements of the recommendations of the Murrison Report; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the plans. [25616]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence's business plan commits the Department to develop its plans to implement the in-service recommendations made by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his report "Fighting Fit" by December 2010. Copies were placed in the Library earlier this month and it is also available on the MOD's website:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/88EA12B8-E08F-4EE4-9963-[illegible]FF82DBC665B/0/20101108_mod_business_plan_final.pdf

A summary of progress with the main recommendations is as follows.

The King's Centre for Military Health Research has secured funding for research aimed at identifying a possible screening tool for post-traumatic stress disorder. We aim to carry out a three-month trial of the processes for introducing enhanced mental health surveillance during routine medicals, starting in April 2011. Within the same time scale, we will be enabling access to military departments of community mental health for personnel leaving the armed forces for up to six months following discharge. Finally, the development of an online early intervention portal for both serving personnel and ex-service personnel is being led by the Department of Health, with full assistance from the MOD.

We are examining the best way to take forward the other measures contained within the report alongside the Department of Health.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on veterans' pensions for veterans *(a)* based in the UK and *(b)* living abroad in the last five years for which figures are available. [26061]

Mr Robathan: The Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) is the occupational pension scheme for the services including the reserves. The War Pension Scheme (WPS) provides no fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for injuries and death as result of service before 6 April 2005. From this date, the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was introduced.

The amount paid under the War Pension Scheme is in the following table:

£ million

Financial year	*UK*	*Overseas*
2006-07	983	55
2007-08	961	54
2008-09	949	51
2009-10	930	51

Information on AFPS and AFCS spend split UK or overseas is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Astute Class Submarines

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service date is of the seventh Astute-class submarine. [19316]

Peter Luff: On 19 October 2010, the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) (Cm7948) committed the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to purchase a total of seven Astute class submarines. It also stated that the MOD will work with British industry to improve efficiency and optimise to expected demand its capacity to build and support submarines.

The outcome of this work will inform the procurement costs and in-service dates for the Astute class submarines, including Boat 7. It will not be possible to confirm this information until it has been approved through the MOD's and HM Treasury's formal investment approvals processes at Main Gate.

Christmas

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on (i) the purchase of Christmas trees, (ii) the purchase of Christmas decorations and (iii) Christmas parties in 2010. [24542]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* This response covers the Department and its agencies, but excludes trading funds which are outside the Ministry of Defence's departmental boundary for financial reporting purposes.

Most areas of MOD have reported no spend or planned spend on Christmas-related activities in 2010. The Land Forces Top Level Budget has identified expenditure of nearly £7,000 on Christmas-related lunches for junior ranks and other similar events and just over £300 on decorations. This expenditure relates to Christmas 2009 and Christmas 2010.

Defence: Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the senior responsible owner (SRO) is for each of the major defence projects reported on by the National Audit Office in its 2010 report; on what date each SRO was appointed in respect of each project; and whether any such project has not had an SRO during any period since its inception. [25169]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* The role of the senior responsible owner (SRO) is to ensure that a programme or project meets its objectives and delivers the projected benefits. The normal assumption is that the role will be undertaken as part of an existing post.

In regards to the UK Military Flying Training System, the Permanent Secretary appointed Air Marshal Andrew Pulford as SRO on 3 November 2010, in succession to Air Marshal Simon Bryant, in recognition of the project's continuing status as a significant Ministry of Defence Business Change programme. This appointment is in addition to Air Marshal Pulford's duties as Deputy Commander-in-Chief Personnel for the Air Force.

The other projects reported on in the major projects report 2010 form part of wider Capability Change Programmes, to which the Heads of Capability, under the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Capability) fulfil the equivalent SRO role, in addition to their other duties. A summary of relevant dates is contained in the table.

Given that the inception of the projects within MPR10 was a significant time ago, the cost of establishing whether there has ever been a gap in succession of SRO role between named individuals could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Summary of dates

Individual in SRO role	*Relevant projects/programmes*	*Date*[1]
Air Deputy C-in-C Personnel—Air Marshal Andrew Pulford	UK Military Flying Training System	3 November 2010
Head of Capability, Deep Target Attack—Air Vice Marshal Phil Osborn (to be replaced imminently by Air Commodore Mark Roberts)	Combat Air and Complex Weapons Programmes including: JCA, Typhoon Tornado Capability Development, BVRAAM and IFPA.	29 October 2009
Head of Capability, Above Water—Commodore Simon Kings	Maritime Platforms Programme including: Type 45 and Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carrier.	19 April 2010
Head of Capability, Underwater—Air Commodore Jerry Kessell	Underwater Platforms and Anti Submarine Warfare Programmes including: Astute, Merlin CSP and Nimrod MRA4.	14 June 2010
Head of Capability Air and Littoral Manoeuvre—Commodore Russ Harding	Rotary Wing Programme including: Lynx Wildcat and SAR(H).	29 October 2009
Head of Capability Expeditionary Logistic and Support—Brigadier Paul Jaques	Strategic Mobility Air, Theatre Maritime Sustainment and Logistic and Support Vehicles Programmes including: A400M, FSTA, MARS, OUVS, C Vehicle PFI, and Support Vehicles.	29 October 2009
Head of Capability, ISTAR—Air Commodore Tom Cross	Air ISTAR and Direct Process Disseminate Programmes including: Watchkeeper, HELIX, Sustain SENTRY, ASTOR and DABINETT.	29 October 2009
Head of Capability, CCII—Brigadier Neil Couch	Networks, Air Command and Control and Logistics and Personnel Command and Control Programmes including: Falcon, JMATS and Bowman.	29 October 2009
Head of Capability, Ground Manoeuvre—Brigadier Mike Riddell-Webster	Heavy and Medium Forces and Light and Soldier Systems Programmes including: FIST, FRES and Trojan and Titan.	29 October 2009

[1] Refers to date of SRO appointment letter, issue of programme mandate or appointment to post, as appropriate.

Key:

JCA—Joint Combat Aircraft
BVRAAM—Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile
IFPA—Indirect Fire Precision Attack
CSP—Capability Sustainment Programme
SAR(H)—Search and Rescue Helicopter
MRA4—Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft
FSTA—Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft
MARS—Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Project
OUVS—Operational Utility Vehicle System
ISTAR—Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance
ASTOR—Airborne Stand-Off Radar
JMATS—Joint Military Air Traffic Services
FIST—Future Integrated Soldier Technology
FRES—Future Rapid Effects System

Defence: Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanism he has put in place to ensure that future export potential is considered at the outset of a major project in his Department. [26553]

Mr Gerald Howarth: In July 2010, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), set out the five criteria against which future equipment programmes will be assessed. One of the criteria is exportability: making sure we consider the export potential and viability when considering new project requirements. This is now embedded in the Project Start Up/Foundation process, as part of the Ministry of Defence's acquisition cycle. Where appropriate, we will then consider how adjustments can be made to our own procurement programme to support export prospects. This may include more modular design or acquisition options which provide greater flexibility to meet export requirements at minimal cost, for example, while ensuring the UK still obtains the capability it needs.

The Defence and Security Industrial and Technology Paper will consider how the Government can further support responsible defence exports. Interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on this paper during the public consultation period which will begin after the Christmas recess for a 12 week period up to the end of March 2011.

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* remit, *(b)* staffing levels and *(c)* number and types of cases administered by each legal team in his Department were in the latest period for which figures are available. [25614]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is serviced by seven civilian legal teams, under the overall supervision of the legal director.

The operational and humanitarian law team (six civilian lawyers) provides advice to the department on international humanitarian law, international law and domestic law in relation to military operations (including Iraq legacy litigation), advises on international negotiations, and supervises the provision of advice to the Permanent Joint Headquarters.

The general law team (six civilian lawyers) provides advice on public inquiries (including Al Sweady, Baha Mousa and the MOD's input to the Iraq inquiry), inquests, Northern Ireland matters, judicial reviews such as the Smith case, freedom of information, EU law and a wide range of other topics.

The personnel and pensions team (13 civilian lawyers, one military lawyer) provides advice on employment questions, terms and conditions of service, redundancy and discrimination law (for both civilian and military personnel), War Pensions, Armed Forces Compensation and service and civilian pensions issues.

The legislation team (five civilian lawyers, two military lawyers) deals with departmental legislation (including the quinquennial Armed Forces Acts), departmental input into other Government Departments' legislation, constitutional matters relating to the armed forces, and the service justice system.

The commercial team (29 civilian lawyers) provides advice on commercial and procurement issues; assists Defence Estates with some transactional work, and liaises with the Ministry of Defence's external commercial legal advisers.

Legal teams in Germany and Cyprus (seven civilian lawyers plus some locally engaged legally qualified staff) deal, in the former case, with advice to UK forces and the civilian component relating to all aspects of living in and operating in and from Germany. In the latter case, the team deal with advice to the Sovereign Base Administrator (the head of the team also acts as Attorney-General to the Sovereign Base Areas and in that context has independent control of prosecutions before the SBA courts).

In all seven teams, legally qualified staff are supplemented by a small number of support staff and legal executives.

The single services are served by their own legal branches, and by the Service Prosecuting Authority.

The number and types of cases administered are not held in the format requested.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to reduce his Department's budget for legal services. [25742]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is now in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in early 2011.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many procurement contracts his Department is in the process of awarding; to what equipment each contract relates; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each contract; what the delivery dates are; and from which companies the equipment is being provided. [25673]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Such information would in any case not normally be released prior to contracts being placed as to do so might prejudice the Department's commercial position and could undermine the tendering process.

Following contract award the Department routinely publishes the contractor's name; nature of the goods or services to be supplied; award criteria; rationale for contract award; price of the winning tender; and the identities of the unsuccessful tenderers in the Official Journal of the European Union, the European Defence Agency's Electronic Bulletin Board and the MOD Contracts Bulletin.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which items were procured by his Department using funds from the contingency reserve in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010 to date. [25674]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence charges the Reserve only for the net additional costs of military operations. Costs that would have been incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries of core staff are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation, for example training exercises, are taken into account when arriving at the net figures. Currently, only the net additional costs of operations in Afghanistan (Operation HERRICK) and Iraq (Operation TELIC) can be claimed from the Reserve.

Expenditure from the Reserve in the years in question has been wide ranging, covering items such as infrastructure, personnel costs, equipment support, capital expenditure and stock, fuel and ammunition consumption. A full list of all items procured is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Net Additional Cost Military Operations (NACMO) expenditure, claimed from the Reserve between 2008 and 2010, is shown in the following table:

£ million

	2008-09		*2009-10*		*2010-11*[1]	
Cost type	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*
Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit	1,124	1,655	299	2,330	142	2,940

£ million

Cost type	*2008-09*		*2009-10*		*2010-11*[1]	
	Iraq	*Afghanistan*	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*
Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit	257	968	43	1,491	37	1,496
Total	1,381	2,623	342	3,821	179	4,436

[1] 2010-11 are Main Estimate figures.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25955]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25956]

Mr Robathan: From May 2010 to 12 November 2010, 388 questions were tabled to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for answer on a named day. 210 (54%) were answered substantively on the day named for answer. No questions were answered before the day named for answer, as Parliament does not accept answers before the named day. 13 questions (3%) did not receive a substantive answer by 18 November 2010.

The MOD calculates timescales for answering written parliamentary questions using parliamentary sitting days, rather than calendar days, which is in line with Cabinet Office guidance. Seven days is therefore, interpreted as five sitting days and 14 days as 10 sitting days.

From May 2010 to 12 November 2010, 1,143 questions were tabled to the MOD for ordinary written answer. 634 (55%) were answered within five sitting days, and 877 (76%) were answered within 10 sitting days. 30 questions (3%) remained unanswered by 18 November 2010.

The average cost of answering a written question estimated by the Treasury is £154, as from 20 January 2010. The Treasury, in making its assessment of the cost of answering questions, does not differentiate between the types of written questions.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly, to which the MOD will provide its input in due course.

Ex-servicemen

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to publish the outcome of the review of his Department's veterans strategy. [26060]

Mr Robathan: The Strategy for Veterans outlines the Ministry of Defence's plans for working across Government and with veterans' organisations to provide preparation for the transition of service personnel back to civilian life, provide advice and support to veterans and to ensure that veterans' contribution to society is understood and recognised. The current intention is that the review will be completed and the strategy revised if required early in the new year.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the performance of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in bringing together services for veterans. [26062]

Mr Robathan: The formation of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in 2007 brought together the Armed Forces Pay and Administration Agency and the Veterans Agency, into a single, cohesive, organisation responsible for delivering services to armed forces personnel from recruitment to retirement and beyond, including war pensioners and the injured. The Owners Advisory Board, Customer Advisory Group and veterans' organisations meet regularly to provide feedback on the agency's work and the performance is constantly reviewed and developed in the light of this advice.

This Government have also introduced 13 Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees that give a regional focus to, and raise awareness of, the support available to the former service community.

A new Welfare Strategy, that will closely involve the third sector, will be developed following the completion of initiatives like the Service Personnel Command Paper, the Armed Forces Military Taskforce and rewriting the Military Covenant.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will update the information on the veterans strategy presented on the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency website. [26108]

Mr Robathan: The Strategy for Veterans available on the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency website reflects the current position. However the Government are working on a replacement strategy that will demonstrate our commitment to providing the best possible services to the former service community.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely number of armed forces veterans in *(a)* 2020 *(b)* 2030 *(c)* 2040 and *(d)* 2050. [26059]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held.

Falklands Island

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the Falklands Islands of Decree 256/2010 issued by the Government of Argentina. [26408]

Nick Harvey: We take our responsibility to defend the Falkland Islands and the other UK overseas territories in the South Atlantic very seriously indeed and reiterated our commitment to their defence in the strategic defence and security review. The imposition of Argentinean Presidential Decree 256 has no effect on our ability to defend the Islands.

MOD St Athan

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has considered the merits of using the superhangar at MOD St Athan for the purpose of servicing RAF aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [26358]

Mr Robathan: There are currently no plans to use the superhangar at MOD St Athan to maintain and repair RAF aircraft beyond 2010.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he had with representatives of BAE Systems on the Strategic Defence and Security Review prior to its publication. [24454]

Dr Fox: I had a meeting with Ian King, chief executive of BAE Systems, on 21 June 2010, prior to a meeting of the National Defence Industries Council, which he and I co-chair. I also met BAE Systems representatives at other defence-related events, e.g. the Farnborough air show.

Submarines

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether the incorporation of the Core H reactor into the Vanguard-class submarines during their period of long overhaul and refuelling will be sufficient to cover the additional nine years of expected service life of the platform. [20399]

Dr Fox: The Trident Value for Money Review considered the feasibility of extending the life of the Vanguard class submarines beyond 25 years and analysis continues in support of the planned life extension. This work has confirmed that there is sufficient fuel capacity to cover the extension required for each submarine.

Submarines: Decommissioning

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to announce his decision on the shortlist of bidders to undertake submarine dismantling work; and which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations he plans to inform of that decision. [26044]

Mr Robathan: The contracting strategy for the submarine dismantling project is being developed as part of the project's assessment phase, ahead of the main gate decision point.

There are no plans to invite bids for submarine dismantling work, should such a contracting strategy be adopted, until the assessment phase is completed. The assessment phase will include a public consultation which is currently planned for 2011.

We recognise that there is a great deal of interest in submarine dismantling work and an announcement will be made on the way forward for the submarine dismantling project on completion of the assessment phase. Information on the progress of the assessment phase is publicly available on the project's web site:

http://www.submarinedismantling.co.uk/
CurrentActivities.html

Interested parties, including other Government bodies and regulatory authorities, are routinely advised on project progress.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Rents

20. **Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely effects on the number of new homes of the implementation of the proposed affordable rent model. [26219]

Grant Shapps: In the spending review we announced almost £4.5 billion of investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, which will increase their financial capacity, so our aspiration is to deliver as many homes as possible through our investment and reforms.

Empty Homes

21. **Stephen Metcalfe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to return empty homes to productive use. [26221]

Andrew Stunell: Empty homes are a blight on communities and a waste of housing which we cannot afford. We are proposing to give local authorities bigger incentives to take action on empty homes by including them in the New Homes Bonus, and we intend to provide £100 million over the spending review period to bring over 3,000 empty homes back into use as affordable rented housing.

Affordable Housing: Construction

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the likely number of new affordable homes starts in each of the next three years. [26222]

Grant Shapps: In the spending review we announced almost £4.5 billion of investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets thus increasing their financial capacity, so our aspiration is to deliver as many homes as possible through our investment and reforms. The number of homes delivered in each year will be dependent on agreements between housing associations and the Homes and Communities Agency, in consultation with local authorities.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the effects on local authority housing budgets of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [26199]

Grant Shapps: Despite the fiscal constraints, the Government are still investing nearly £6.5 billion in affordable housing, of which at least £1.6 billion will go to local authorities to make council homes decent. We have protected funding for homelessness and allocated almost £1 billion in addition for the New Homes Bonus which will reward local authorities which promote housing growth, and we will deliver increased freedoms and flexibilities to local authorities to make best use of their share of this funding. We will provide more information to authorities about overall Government grant, including support for housing budgets, when we announce shortly the provisional local government finance settlement.

Council Tax

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage increase in council tax in England has been since 1997. [26220]

Robert Neill: The increase in the average band D council tax in England between 1997-98 and 2010-11 is 109%.

Councillors

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effects on the effectiveness of local representation of the implementation of proposals to reduce the number of local councillors. [26361]

Robert Neill: These matters are the responsibility of the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which is directly responsible to Parliament and for its recommendations on local government electoral matters, including recommendations on council size. Such recommendations are implemented by order made by the Commission, unless either House of Parliament has resolved that such an order be not made.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made in implementing his policy on houses in multiple occupation in deprived areas; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of this policy on the number of such houses in such areas. [26172]

Grant Shapps: Local authorities are under a statutory duty to license larger, higher risk houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in their areas. They also have the general consent to introduce additional HMO licensing schemes in their areas without having to first seek approval from the Department. We believe that it is right for these local decisions to be made by those who are directly accountable to local communities.

We are also giving councils the flexibility to use planning rules to control the spread of HMOs where they cause problems, without tying every landlord in red tape where shared housing causes no problems. This localist approach will allow action to be taken in deprived areas where the saturation of HMOs adversely affects local amenity.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the Conservative Member of the National Assembly for Wales for Mid and West Wales on the proposed pilot in Wales for high speed broadband services. [26147]

Mr Vaizey: Department for Business Innovation and Skills Ministers have not had any meetings with the Conservative Member of the National Assembly for Wales for Mid and West Wales about the proposed pilot for high speed broadband services, but BIS officials have had regular dialogue with all the devolved Administrations and regional development agencies prior to the selection of the superfast broadband pilots.

Cumbria University: Finance

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department plans to provide to the University of Cumbria to maximise the uptake of higher education by persons resident in harder-to-reach areas of Cumbria. [24804]

Mr Willetts: Our student finance proposals provide a new approach to access for the poorest in society who have the ambition and aptitude to go to university. We are putting in place student support arrangements that offer fair access for all, regardless of background—including extending the exemption from upfront charges to part-time students. We have also pledged £150 million to establish a new National Scholarship Programme to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It will raise their aspirations and their confidence in applying to university by guaranteeing them benefits such as a free first year or foundation year. Additionally, we will improve the advice and guidance available to young people so that they are aware, for example, of the qualifications required for different courses and careers.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25961]

Mr Davey: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

Figures for named day parliamentary questions answered by the Department from May to October 2010 are as follows:

Figures for the period May to October 2010

	Number (Percentage)
Total	286
Answered on date stipulated	215 (75%)
Answered within 10 sitting days of the date stipulated[1]	285 (100%)

[1] Includes those parliamentary questions answered on the substantive day

There were 10 named day parliamentary questions which remained unanswered on 18 November. Of these, eight have since received a substantive answer.

The Department's management parliamentary questions accounting systems is unable to provide the average cost of answering a parliamentary question.

HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions and the estimated costs that have applied from 20 January 2010 for answering a written question are £154.

The Treasury, in making its assessment of the cost of answering questions, does not differentiate between the types of written questions.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25962]

Mr Davey: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

Figures for parliamentary questions answered by the Department after seven and 14 days from tabling are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost but information from May to October 2010 is as follows:

Figures for the period May to October 2010[1]

	Number (Percentage)
Total	1,076
Answered within five sitting days	797 (74%)
Answered within 10 sitting days[2]	1,021 (95%)

[1] For parliamentary questions due for answer within these calendar months

[2] Includes those parliamentary questions answered within five sitting days

There were 27 ordinary parliamentary questions which remained unanswered on 18 November. Of these, 12 have since received a substantive answer.

The Department's management parliamentary questions accounting system is unable to provide the average cost of answering a parliamentary question.

HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions and the estimated costs that have applied from 20 January 2010 for answering a written question is £154.

The Treasury, in making its assessment of the cost of answering questions, does not differentiate between the types of written questions.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on future funding for the Aimhigher scheme; and if he will make a statement. [25517]

Mr Willetts: I have received a number of letters from schools, other education providers and individuals recently and I am aware of the effect of many of the outreach activities it supports.

In 2004, Aimhigher's funding for the year was £136 million. By the time Labour left office, its annual funding had been reduced by 43% to £78 million. We have been very clear about the importance of widening participation and improving fair access in higher education—all those with the ability should have access to higher education irrespective of family income.

This is why the Coalition is taking a new and different approach that builds on existing best practice, while developing it further. We are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation; and greater Government investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Within this context, the Aimhigher programme will cease at the end of this academic year (July 2011).

In the future institutions will be accountable for the steps they take to widen participation. Those wanting to charge more than a £6,000 annual graduate contribution will have to demonstrate what more they will do to attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds through outreach activities, targeted scholarships and other financial support. This will include a requirement to participate in the new £150 million National Scholarships Programme. This work will be further supported by the £2.5 billion pupil premium to turn their school-based achievement into success at university. Universities and schools have learned a lot from the Aimhigher programme about "what works" in raising the aspirations of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Much of this knowledge is now embedded in the sector. It is right that universities have the freedom and flexibility to decide how to spend their resources on promoting access in the ways that will have the most impact for that institution, including through partnerships. This freedom will be accompanied by a regime of sanctions. Access will remain a focus for all institutions, who will continue to submit a Widening Participation Strategic Assessment to the Higher Education Funding Council for England. We are putting student choice at the heart of the system and will support this by ensuring institutions provide prospective students with clear and comparable information about course content, teaching methods and the employment outcomes of previous students.

Higher Education: Finance

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding each university received from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* tuition fees in the latest period for which figures are available. [23311]

Mr Willetts: Information on the income of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The table shows *(a)* the total public income and *(b)* the tuition fees income of publicly-funded English higher education institutions, and the University of Buckingham whose data is recorded by HESA.

Total public funding has been defined as; tuition fee categories which are predominantly publicly funded; all Funding Council grants—including grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Training and Development Agency (TDA) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA); and other grants from central Government and public bodies such as local authorities and health authorities, and the EU commission.

The income in the tuition fee column is largely paid by the Student Loans Company out of public funds, or other public bodies such as the NHS and devolved administration but it also includes income paid by private sources, such as fees paid directly by home and EU students and by international students.

Higher education institutions have many other sources of income, such as research funding and donations so the total income of universities cannot be assumed from this table.

More detailed breakdowns of income sources is published by HESA in volumes such as "HE Finance Plus and Resources of Higher Education Institutions".

English HEIs: Total public funding and tuition fees 2008/09

£000

	Total public funding	Tuition fees
Open University	255,235	140,832
Cranfield University	53,343	39,341
Royal College of Art	19,334	6,502
Bishop Grosseteste University College	11,589	4,599
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	43,072	21,168
Central School of Speech and Drama	8,707	3,911
University of Chester	58,021	30,962
Canterbury Christ Church University	72,637	43,613
York St John University	32,216	14,715
College of St Mark and St John	16,615	6,370
Edge Hill University	72,243	18,903
University College Falmouth	24,415	9,406
Harper Adams University College	19,787	5,163
University of Winchester	28,044	14,572
Liverpool Hope University	37,213	16,552
University of the Arts, London	115,555	69,176
University of Bedfordshire	69,760	51,345
University of Northampton	52,689	29,667
Newman College of Higher Education	16,909	6,357
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	14,202	3,857
Roehampton University	49,567	23,821
Rose Bruford College	6,481	2,648
Royal Academy of Music	5,794	5,493
Royal College of Music	7,235	4,283
Royal Northern College of Music	7,636	3,521
Southampton Solent University	57,050	31,522
University of Cumbria	65,034	25,909
St Marys University College, Twickenham	22,578	9,801
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	14,642	6,350
Trinity Laban	10,834	3,434
University of Worcester	41,381	20,500
Anglia Ruskin University	92,485	60,424
Bath Spa University	41,059	16,977
University of Bolton	37,210	16,881
Bournemouth University	78,889	44,429
University of Brighton	115,004	56,101
University of Central England in Birmingham	115,997	71,206
University of Central Lancashire	123,821	74,553
University of Gloucestershire	47,919	22,386
Coventry University	104,936	66,510
University of Derby	79,280	40,595
University of East London	83,399	74,494
University of Greenwich	107,696	68,571
University of Hertfordshire	117,188	73,351
University of Huddersfield	99,733	48,457
University of Lincoln	66,038	27,698
Kingston University	128,296	76,658
Leeds Metropolitan University	114,837	53,771
Liverpool John Moores University	101,754	66,344
Manchester Metropolitan University	177,749	86,923
Middlesex University	102,127	72,753
De Montfort University	88,434	56,562
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	129,440	90,366
Nottingham Trent University	118,597	72,479
Oxford Brookes University	79,936	63,155
University of Plymouth	160,730	59,447
University of Portsmouth	110,827	62,853
Sheffield Hallam University	162,516	95,601
London South Bank University	96,973	61,701
Staffordshire University	89,799	36,163
University of Sunderland	70,390	45,004
University of Teesside	102,044	48,172
Thames Valley University	79,594	39,612
University of the West of England, Bristol	140,519	62,015
University of Chichester	25,028	11,455
University of Westminster	99,331	63,198
University of Wolverhampton	110,418	50,469

English HEIs: Total public funding and tuition fees 2008/09

		£000
	Total public funding	*Tuition fees*
Aston University	53,587	38,002
University of Bath	99,210	47,149
University of Birmingham	271,582	97,251
University of Bradford	74,416	52,277
University of Bristol	238,373	63,715
Brunel University	86,073	54,828
University of Cambridge	500,935	81,068
City University	76,962	95,659
University of Durham	141,960	58,655
University of East Anglia	129,850	62,145
University of Essex	68,086	40,725
University of Exeter	124,642	58,153
University of Hull	100,741	58,939
University of Keele	66,604	28,475
University of Kent	97,016	52,841
University of Lancaster	102,459	42,733
University of Leeds	311,782	116,893
University of Leicester	129,771	66,283
University of Liverpool	217,661	70,333
Birkbeck College	45,632	22,333
Goldsmiths College	48,425	27,529
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	358,447	100,904
Institute of Education	56,781	11,952
Kings College London	295,786	94,625
London Business School	8,860	40,440
London School of Economics and Political Science	47,650	88,206
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	38,884	10,381
Queen Mary and Westfield College	168,707	60,863
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	68,044	40,824
Royal Veterinary College	37,914	6,410
St Georges Hospital Medical School	59,892	7,673
School of Oriental and African Studies	23,072	30,112
School of Pharmacy	14,776	4,480
University College London	400,322	107,765
University of London (Institutes and activities)	56,688	38,335
Loughborough University	114,642	58,012
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	220,350	73,392
University of Nottingham	282,609	139,556
University of Oxford	391,445	89,082
University of Reading	115,197	59,023
University of Salford	126,261	77,041
University of Sheffield	259,628	97,342
University of Southampton	244,993	91,745
University of Surrey	95,049	55,604
University of Sussex	99,381	40,965
University of Warwick	181,275	99,884
University of York	129,567	49,746
Institute of Cancer Research	36,124	271
Writtle College	14,225	2,581
Norwich School of Art and Design	9,606	3,850
Royal Agricultural College	6,135	2,995
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	18,773	7,255
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	14,515	4,474
Birmingham College of Food Tourism and Creative Studies	29,598	10,073
Courtauld Institute of Art	4,815	1,854
London Metropolitan University	97,104	67,936
University of Buckingham	546	8,139
University of Manchester	407,152	165,851
Heythrop College	2,522	1,814
University College for Creative Arts at Canterbury	41,446	15,632
Leeds College of Music	7,408	2,601
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	11,634	3,530
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	5,236	2,879
Total	12,498,637	5,823,710

Source:
HESA

Higher Education: North Tyneside

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in North Tyneside constituency *(a)* applied to attend university in the current academic year and *(b)* were successful in their applications; and what proportion in each case was from disadvantaged backgrounds. [24796]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and therefore mostly covers full-time undergraduate study.

Applicants who were not accepted for entry can include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and fail to meet the specific conditions (eg they do not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants from North Tyneside to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background, 2010/11

Area background	*Applicants*	*Percentage of total*	*Accepted applicants*	*Percentage of total*
Disadvantaged[1]	719	86	497	86
Other	114	14	80	14
Grand total	833	100	577	100

[1] For the purposes of their funding allocations the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) treat entrants from the most disadvantaged 40% of neighbourhoods as 'disadvantaged'
http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/fund/
HEFCE uses two different groupings of areas to define disadvantage: one based on the participation rates of young (19 and under) people in HE (which is used by HEFCE when looking at young full-time entrants); and one based on the proportion of adults who hold HE qualifications (which is used by HEFCE when looking at part-time and mature full-time entrants). Because this table includes applicants and accepted applicants of all ages disadvantage is defined by the HE qualified adults measure.

Source:
UCAS provisional end of year data (represents applicants and accepted applicants at 13 October 2010; end of year data will be available from 20 January 2011).

Innovation: Greater London

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department plans to allocate to support the proposed East End of London High Tech Hub in each of the next four years. [23599]

Mr Willetts: UK Trade & Investment has announced that it will create a technology taskforce this month, with associated expenditure of £15 million. The allocation of this expenditure over the next four years has yet to be decided. The taskforce will work to attract technology investment into the UK, including a focus on east London, and will provide support through its London International Trade Team, and others, to technology companies wishing to export. The technology-related resources of BIS will be available to strengthen and support this effort.

Internet

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to ensure that internet service providers do not discriminate against competitors and new entrants in the speed at which websites and services reach their customers. [26592]

Mr Vaizey: The Government expect all internet service providers (ISPs) providing an internet access service—both fixed and mobile—to offer all legal content. Consumers should always be able to access any legal content or service they want to and content providers and applications should be able to access consumers. ISPs should not be able to discriminate unfairly against services or users. That means no blocking or discriminatory degradation of services or applications for commercial reasons.

There is not yet any evidence that discriminatory practices are emerging, or that there is a problem with regards to how ISPs or networks manage the traffic that flows over them (something they all engage in for technical reasons to deliver the best possible service to consumers). That is enforced by the initial responses to Ofcom's recent consultation on the issue.

A contributing factor to the success of the internet has been the lack of legislative restraints that have been placed on it. It is important that we give the market the opportunity to self regulate. Ofcom will closely monitor how the market develops and if it develops in an anti-competitive way they will intervene.

Students: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on differentials between remuneration of graduates and non-graduates. [23410]

Mr Willetts: The Department holds information on pay differentials between graduates and non-graduates from a wide range of sources—published statistics, internal analysis, and external research. Much of it draws on data from the Labour Force Survey.

It all shows that, on average, graduates earn more than non-graduates. The key points are summarised here, in terms of actual earnings and the lifetime earnings premium.

Average earnings

The following table shows recent estimates from the Labour Force Survey of the average earnings for employees of working age in the UK, split by those in full-time and part-time employment, according to whether they hold qualifications at Level 4 or above, or Level 3 and below.

Qualifications at Level 4 and above (L4+) correspond to 'higher education level qualifications', ranging from HE certificates and higher national diplomas, through first degrees, up to and including doctorates; they also include vocational equivalents (e.g. higher level national vocational qualifications). The estimates are for Quarter 2 (April to June) 2010.

£

	L4+		*L3 and below*	
Average earnings	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
2010 Quarter 2	35,995	14,634	22,702	7,463

Source:
LFS Q2 2010; employees in UK; working age (aged: 16 to 59 females, 16 to 64 males).

Lifetime earnings

There are also estimates of the lifetime earnings benefits of having a degree over and above two or more A-levels (the 'graduate premium'), which control for other factors that influence earnings. The Department draws on various estimates of the lifetime earnings benefits for degree holders, arising from both external and internal analysis. Generally they all estimate the lifetime earnings benefits of having a first degree over and above two or more A-levels.

These estimates indicate that first degree graduates can expect to earn, on average, over £100,000 more over their working life, in today's values and net of taxes, than similar individuals who stop their education with two or more A-levels.

This is for the average graduate, and the actual position for any individual will vary around this average.

There have been several calculations of the graduate premium in recent years, using data from different time periods and/or slightly different methods, though they have all used data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS—a sample survey) and the broad approach is consistent. These have all come to similar conclusions, albeit with slightly different estimates, which is why it is generally not expressed as a single figure but rather as a range or being above a certain value.

A couple of relevant external studies are:

'The Return to a University Education in Great Britain, O'Leary, N.C. and P.J. Sloane (2005), National Institute Economic Review, no. 193: pp 75-89' (they found the lifetime earnings premium, net of taxes, was £141,539 for males and £157,928 for females).

'The Economic Benefits of a degree, UUK/PWC, Feb 2007' (this gave the graduate premium as being around £160,000 gross)

http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Documents/research-gradprem.pdf

Students: Loans

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to reduce the time taken to process applications for student loans. [23647]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company (SLC) administers Student Finance England. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has invested in improving the company's systems (for example, creating an electronic link to the Identity and Passport Service so applicants no longer have to send in their passports to verify their eligibility) and has supported streamlining processes and providing more staff to process applications at peak times.

The Department has also revised the SLC's targets for the time taken to process applications from submission by a student to readiness for payment, and continues to challenge and support the company to improve further.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability-specific organisations have applied to be approved contractors for the Work programme. [25285]

Chris Grayling: 102 organisations, Special Purpose Vehicles or consortiums submitted bids in respect of the DWP Framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services. Bidders were not asked to indicate whether they were disability-specific organisations in their bid. A list of organisations that submitted bids can be found on the Supplying DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/

Those organisations that have been accepted onto the Framework will be notified at the end of November and a list will also be published on the Supplying DWP website. Only those organisations that are successful in being admitted to the Framework as Prime Contractors will be invited to tender for Work programme contracts.

Carer's Allowance

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects on those in receipt of carer's allowance of the implementation of his proposal for a universal credit. [24783]

Maria Miller: Carers provide an invaluable service to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and the Government want to make sure they get the support they need.

The Government are currently considering whether changes to carer's allowance will be necessary to take account of the introduction of universal credit and provide clearer, more effective support for carers.

Most carers of working age want to maintain contact with the labour market, not only for their financial well-being, but also to enhance their own lives and the lives of those for whom they care. The Government intend, as part of their reforms, to provide support for carers and improve their opportunities to maintain links with the world of work.

Carer's Allowance: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Livingston constituency *(a)* are in receipt of carer's allowance and *(b)* were in receipt of carer's allowance in each of the last five years. [24857]

Maria Miller: The number of people in receipt of carers allowance (CA) over the last five years is as follows:

Livingston parliamentary constituency[1]

	Number
May:	
2010	1,020
2009	980
2008	930
2007	940
2006	920

[1] Constituencies used for May 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Caseloads for CA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published at: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which services of his Department have been the subject of a contract awarded in a tender process in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid since 1997-98. [25020]

Chris Grayling: In 2007 the Department began a procurement process to replace the Post Office card account and Post Office Ltd submitted a bid.

Although the procurement was subsequently cancelled, the contract was awarded to Post Office Ltd in November 2008, based on their tender submitted in that process.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what services provided by his Department were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier; and what the monetary value was of each such contract in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [25021]

Chris Grayling: The Department has no services which were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and which have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [25022]

Chris Grayling: All of the information is not available in the format requested.

Information relating to the value of contracts in 1997-98 cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

(a) The monetary value of the contracts between the Department and Post Office Ltd for each financial year since April 2004 is as follows:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	£ million 2009-10
Post Office Point of Sale (POPOS)	0.33	—	—	—	—	—
Order Books	227.28	32.11	—	—	—	—
Post Office card account (POca)	136.03	156.5	150.84	147.21	143.14	131.47
Alternative Distribution Channel (ADC)	0.06	0.20	0.35	2.6	0.37	0.37

The POPOS contract related to the display of key departmental leaflets and posters in post office branches. The contract was terminated by Post Office Ltd on 2 June 2004.

The contract for the payment of DWP benefits and pensions by order book was in place until 31 May 2005.

The POca contract began in April 2003. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency and the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency also pay pensions and tax credits into POcas. The figures above relate to DWP expenditure only.

The ADC contract has been in force since 1 February 2005 to provide contingency arrangements for the distribution of customers' cheque payments in the event of Royal Mail industrial action. The contract was invoked during 2007-08, resulting in increased expenditure for that period.

(b) The monetary value of the contracts between the Department and Royal Mail for each financial year since April 2004 is as follows:

Postal services

	£ million
2004-05	66.94
2005-06	56.41
2006-07	45.96
2007-08	38.45
2008-09	39.32
2009-10	41.43

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18400]

Chris Grayling: Expenditure on overseas visits by senior civil servants in the Department is not separately recorded and could be identified only at disproportionate cost. However, total expenditure on overseas travel by the Department's staff (over 100,000 in total) for the period from 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 was £498,525; a fall of 29% compared with the period from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009. It is reasonable to assume that the majority of this expenditure was incurred by members of the senior civil service.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation he undertook with *(a)* charities, *(b)* third sector organisations and *(c)* other disability organisations prior to his decision to propose the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for those who live in residential care homes. [24856]

Maria Miller: Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that contracts with care homes cover services to meet a resident's assessed needs. These will cover activities of daily living which may include providing access to doctors, dentists and local services such as libraries and banks. Local authorities should also take into account the resident's emotional and social needs as part of the assessment.

As part of the spending review all organisations are given the opportunity to contribute to the priorities of the spending review. Across Government, consultation on specific spending review measures was not undertaken. All measures are subject to the parliamentary process, and we are committed to the involvement of charities, third sector organisations and other disability organisations in the ongoing development of policy in these areas.

Disability Living Allowance: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people resident in Livingston constituency with a learning disability who will be affected by the implementation of proposals to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance for those who live in residential care homes; and if he will make a statement. [24854]

Maria Miller: Data concerning the disabling conditions of those receiving DLA are not available broken down by place of residence on a constituency basis. We estimate approximately 60,000 people who claim DLA and live in residential care will be affected by this measure in Great Britain.

Employment and Support Allowance: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency, *(b)* Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency and *(c)* Scotland have been in receipt of employment and support allowance payments for more than one year. [24779]

Maria Miller: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Employment and support allowance claimants as of May 2010

	Total number of employment and support allowance claimants	*Claimants in receipt of employment and support allowance for over one year*
Scotland	54,010	10,430
Parliamentary constituency Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	720	150
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	1,020	170

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are compiled using 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries.
3. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Data include those receiving "credits only".

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Employment Schemes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what relationship he plans to establish between the work programme and work clubs. [24616]

Chris Grayling: I would firstly like to acknowledge the excellent work achieved by my hon. Friend in pioneering the development of Job Clubs to help unemployed people find work, and in particular the continued success of the Banbury and Bicester clubs in his Oxfordshire constituency.

The Work Programme will give our providers the freedom to design support based on the needs of individuals and target the right support at the right time—not waste time delivering centrally specified support that will not provide the help a person needs.

For the Work Programme to be successful we expect that prime providers will need to work with a broad range of sub-contractors and local partners in order to deliver the personalised and localised services required in today's labour market.

We are actively encouraging local partners to work with potential Work Programme providers in their areas, in the development of bids that are responsive to local circumstances, and have designed the policy of the Work Programme in order to ensure its flexibility and allow it to integrate closely with the services available in each lot.

The commercial process for the Work Programme is on track. The Invitation to Tender for the Framework for Employment Related Support Services was published on the 23 August, and we are currently evaluating tenders. We expect to be able to announce who has been successful before the end of the year.

Employment: Bus Services

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effects of reductions in bus subsidies and the local government transport grant on the mobility of individuals seeking work. [24819]

Norman Baker: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given him today (UIN 24820).

Flexible New Deal: County Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to introduce the Government's Flexible New Deal in County Durham. [25514]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to introduce Flexible New Deal in County Durham. The Government have taken a decision to terminate all existing Flexible New Deal contracts and replace them with the Work Programme by summer 2011.

The Work Programme will supersede many of the national employment programmes currently on offer, and the confusing array of current programmes will be phased out up to the launch of the Work Programme.

Fylde

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed in each of his Department's offices on the Fylde coast. [24503]

Chris Grayling: The number of staff employed in each of the Department's offices on the Fylde coast at 30 June 2010 is shown in the following table. For comparison purposes the figures represent both headcount and full-time equivalent staff.

Town	*Building*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
Blackpool	43 Queen Street	91	84.68
	Government Buildings Norcross	1,480	1,365.63
	Marton Mere	353	311.91
	Peel Park	713	671.34
	Tydesley Road	63	57.31
	Warbreck House	2,567	2,228.22
Fleetwood	Roskell House	42	35.90
Lytham St Annes	Westmoreland House	59	54.80
Grand total		5,368	4,809.79

Housing Benefit

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months. [24468]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance. However neither the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit nor the duration of such claims is available.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria he plans to use to determine the distribution of additional discretionary housing benefit funding between local authorities. [25145]

Steve Webb: We are discussing the 2011-12 allocation of the additional Discretionary Housing Payment funding with the local authority associations. Our discussions will be informed by our detailed analysis of the impact of the changes to Local Housing Allowance rates which we published on 23 July 2010. A copy of that document 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* North West Durham constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England likely to have to find alternative accommodation as a result of implementation of proposed reforms to housing benefit. [25513]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on the 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July. This gives details of the impacts at local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library. However, we are unable to provide an estimate of the number of households that may move as a consequence of the proposed reforms because it is not possible to assess behavioural effects among tenants and landlords.

We are working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations to assist tenants through the transition. For example we have trebled the Discretionary Housing Payment funding to local authorities. We are working with local authorities and providing them with a communications tool kit which will help them raise awareness so tenants can consider their options before they are affected.

Housing Benefit: Females

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England are female. [24441]

Steve Webb: Information is not available at the constituency level. The available information is shown in the table.

		Females without partner		*Couples*	
	Total HB recipients	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
North East	257,880	128,520	50	54,940	21
England	4,070,960	2,054,810	51	849,220	21

Notes:
1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Gender information is not recorded in approximately 10,000 cases in England and just over 1,000 cases in the North East.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract for July 2010.

Housing Benefit: North Tyneside

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* North Tyneside constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England are in receipt of housing benefit and have been unemployed for 12 months or more. [24954]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The economic status of HB claimants is not available. However information is available on the passported status of the claim: that is, whether the claimant receives either income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based), employment and support allowance (income-based), or pension credit (guaranteed credit).

Housing Benefit: Rural Areas

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on people aged between 25 and 35 in sparsely populated rural areas of the proposed changes to housing benefit. [25459]

Steve Webb: We will publish a document on the impacts of the proposed changes to the shared room rate in due course. This will include analysis at the local authority level.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the proportion of housing benefit recipients in Scotland who were *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* carers and *(c)* disabled in the latest period for which figures are available. [24412]

Steve Webb: At August 2010, there were 172,020 housing benefit recipients in Scotland where the claimant or their partner was 60 years old or older. This amounts to 37% of the total housing benefit case load in Scotland. Information on carers and disabled people is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Mental Health

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Jobcentre Plus districts in each region of England have a mental health co-ordinator as part of the mental health co-ordinator network programme. [25251]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what proportion of Jobcentre Plus Districts in each region in England has a mental health co-ordinator. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All Jobcentre Plus Districts have a mental health coordinator in post. Their role is to raise awareness of mental health issues, building practical links between health and employment services at a local level. This includes ensuring that advisers receive support and training to identify customers who may have a mental health condition and to be able to signpost them to appropriate sources of help.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent estimate he has made of the average contact time with a jobs adviser for a jobseeker's allowance claimant in the first *(a)* four weeks, *(b)* three months and *(c)* six months of the claimant's search for a job; [25520]

(2) how frequently a jobseeker's allowance claimant must report to a job centre in the first *(a)* four weeks, *(b)* three months and *(c)* six months of unemployment. [25521]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking:

1. how frequently must a Jobseeker's Allowance claimant report to a job centre in the first (a) four weeks, (b) three months and (c) six months unemployment; and

2. what recent estimate has been made of the average contact time with a jobs adviser with a jobseeker's allowance claimant in the first (a) four weeks, (b) three months and (c) six months of the claimant's search for a job.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In answer to your first question, most people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance are required to attend their nearest Jobcentre Plus office every fortnight during the first 13 weeks of their claim. Thereafter and for a period of six weeks they are required to attend weekly before returning to fortnightly attendance. These jobsearch reviews take on average about six or seven minutes. Where additional support is required and that cannot be provided within the confines of a jobsearch review, customers are referred to an adviser.

Turning to your second question, no recent estimate has been made of the average contact with an adviser during various stages of the claim. However, adviser support is provided on the following basis:

everyone has an interview with a personal adviser at the outset of their claim to discuss and agree some realistic job goals and jobsearch plans. We allow an average of 35 minutes for this interview, but the actual time taken will vary to take into account individual customer needs;

people who are particularly disadvantaged within the labour market are fast-tracked from the new claim interview to an adviser caseload. We allow an average of 40 minutes for the an initial interview, followed by an average of three hours contact time used flexibly by advisers to suit individual customer need;

for those people who are not fast-tracked and do not find work quickly, a review is undertaken at or around 13 weeks. We allow an average of 20 minutes for these reviews, but the method of delivery and duration of contact will vary to take into account individual needs; and

all customers reaching six months unemployment are allocated a personal adviser. This involves an initial interview averaged at 40 minutes, followed by an average of three hours contact time used flexibly by advisers to suit individual customer circumstances and needs.

The above framework of regular jobsearch reviews, supplemented by more in-depth adviser support at key stages has proved very successful in helping people into work more quickly than would otherwise have been the case. However, building upon what we know works well, we are, from April 2011, introducing a new framework of advisory support in Jobcentre Plus, giving greater flexibility for Personal Advisers to focus on the individual needs of customers and tailor support accordingly.

I hope this assures you of our intent to provide people with the best possible service.

Occupational Pensions

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on small businesses of automatic enrolment into workplace pensions; and what steps he plans to take to minimise the administrative requirements placed on small businesses by automatic enrolment. [26700]

Steve Webb: The effect on small businesses of the workplace pension reform regulations is set out in the 2010 Impact Assessment. The impact assessment looks at the impact on employers by employer size, looking specifically at small employers (defined as those with fewer than 50 workers) and micro employers (defined as those with fewer than five workers). Annex A presents the detailed assessment, as well as elements of the reforms that are designed to help small and micro employers.

Copies of the impact assessment can be found in the Commons Library or at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/772/pdfs/uksiem_20100772_en.pdf

An independent review of the workplace pension reforms "Making automatic enrolment work" was published on 27 October 2010. One of the things the review team examined was the impact of the reforms on business. David Yeandle, of the Engineering Employers' Federation, was part of the review team to ensure that business interests were well represented in the review process.

The review team recognised that easing burdens on business was important. So a number of their recommendations are aimed specifically at making things more straightforward for employers and we have accepted these recommendations in full. This includes:

Increasing the threshold at which an individual is automatically enrolled (currently £5,035 at 2006-07 prices) to align it with the PAYE tax threshold (£7,475 in 2011-12) and aligning the threshold at which contributions become payable (currently £5,035) with the national insurance contributions threshold (currently £5,715).

A simpler way for employers to check that their defined contribution schemes meet the required standards.

An optional waiting period of up to three months before an employee needs to be automatically enrolled.

Such recommendations will give employers greater flexibility in how they implement the new requirements and will mean that there is a much more proportionate impact on employers. The increased earnings threshold and waiting period are particularly beneficial for smaller employers, as they tend to have more lower earners and higher staff turnover.

The review team recommended a range of further measures specifically aimed at helping smaller businesses including:

Ensuring that micro employers are aware that the design of the national employment savings trust specifically takes account of their needs.

Providing the maximum possible comfort to small employers that they will not be held liable for their scheme choice, particularly if they opt for NEST or a stakeholder pension scheme.

In addition, smaller businesses will not be required to do anything until 2014, once larger employers have been fully brought in. This gives them more time to prepare and more time for us to ensure that the processes work well. Even then they will not be required to contribute the full 3% minimum contribution until October 2017. New businesses will be given further protection by being brought into the reforms last. Any new businesses set up after April 2012 will not have to automatically enrol until March 2016 at the earliest.

The Government are taking forward the recommendations from the review as part of the forthcoming Pensions and Savings Bill, which is scheduled for introduction to Parliament in January 2011. The accompanying impact assessment will set out in detail how the changes affect smaller employers.

Private Rented Housing

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 941-42W, on private rented housing, what the evidential basis is for the estimate that 30% of properties will be affordable under the local housing allowance arrangements in 2012. [25088]

Steve Webb: The local housing allowance rates are set within each broad rental market area based on a list of rents maintained by rent officers as prescribed in legislation. From April 2011 the rates would be calculated as the value at the thirtieth percentile, meaning it will be set at the level of rent for which 30% of the rents in the area fall below that level.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of council tax benefit claimants are disabled people; what assessment his Department has made of the effect on disabled people of the proposed reduction in council tax benefit; and if he will make a statement. [23346]

Steve Webb: The information requested on the proportion of council tax benefit claimants who are disabled people is not available.

Design details of the proposed reduction are being developed by officials and have not yet been announced. An impact assessment on the proposed changes to council tax benefit announced in the spending review would be published, in the normal way, accompanying the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Social Security Benefits: Mortgages

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made an estimate of the *(a)* average and *(b)* total difference between eligible mortgage interest outgoings and benefit awards for people in receipt of support for mortgage interest since 1 October 2010; and what plans he has to provide support for people unable to maintain their mortgage repayments after the implementation of changes to support for mortgage interest rates. [26585]

Steve Webb: The Department does not collect administrative data on the actual mortgage rates paid by support for mortgage interest customers, or information on the average or total difference between eligible mortgage interest outgoings and benefit awards for people in receipt of support for mortgage interest.

In November 2009, we received a sample of data on almost 6,000 support for mortgage interest claimants (around 3% of the total case load) from 16 different mortgage lenders, collected on our behalf by Council of Mortgage Lenders and HM Treasury. While the data are not a statistically robust sample and any results should be considered illustrative, and it is likely that the distribution of mortgage rates will have changed since the data were collected, they can provide a useful insight into the mortgages of support for mortgage interest customers.

Based on this sample, we have made estimates on the proportion of eligible mortgage interest that would be covered under a standard interest rate of 3.67% (the Bank of England published mortgage rate for April 2010), and these are available in table 3 of the equality impact assessment published on the departmental website.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/support-for-mortgage-interest.pdf

It was necessary for the Government to put support for mortgage interest on a more sustainable footing, and to better reflect mortgage costs, which is why we set the standard interest rate at a level equal to the Bank of England's published monthly average mortgage rate from 1 October. The rate is currently 3.63%. The previous rate of 6.08% was too generous and resulted in the vast majority of people getting more than their eligible mortgage interest liability, which was unfair to taxpayers. The plans of the previous Government would have meant that the standard interest rate would have reverted to a formula—the Bank of England base rate plus 1.58%—which, at present, would produce a rate of 2.08% from January 2011.

Although arrears levels may increase for those few borrowers whose new payments do not cover their mortgage, the Council of Mortgage Lenders has advised that that does not translate into an immediate possession risk, and that lenders will continue to exercise forbearance where it is fair to do so for the borrower, and the borrower has a chance of rehabilitation.

Although there are no current plans to change the standard interest rate, we do intend to carefully monitor the impact of the policy. The Government will also continue to explore with mortgage lenders the scope for them to "freeze" benefit claimants' mortgage accounts and apply a standard interest rate for a fixed period.

HEALTH

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include a lung function test in the NHS Healthcheck. [26127]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Gateshead (Ian Mearns) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 589W.

Dental Services: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the population in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency are registered with an NHS dentist. [26551]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the dental contractual arrangements, introduced by the previous government on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a national health service dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24 month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on patients seen by an NHS dentist in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population, in England, is available in table D2 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2010/11" report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2010 and is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority but is not available by constituency.

This report, published on 24 November 2010, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-2010-11-first-quarterly-report

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the population in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency (i) do not have access to an NHS dentist and (ii) are on waiting lists for NHS dentists. [26552]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on patients able to get a dental appointment in the last two years is available in table 1 of the "GP patient survey: dental statistics; April to June 2010, England" and is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority but is not available by constituency.

This report, published on 16 September 2010, has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_119390

Information on waiting times is not collected centrally.

Depression: Suicide

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients diagnosed with manic depression have committed suicide in *(a)* each NHS trust in the North West and *(b)* in England in each of the last 10 years; and how many times lack of access to carers, family and friends was recorded as a contributory factor in such cases. [26702]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not available centrally. Such information as is available is in the following tables. The first table gives a breakdown by year of the number of patients with a primary diagnosis of bipolar disorder who died by suicide in the most recent 10 years for which data are available. The second gives the number of these patients for whom clinicians, when asked whether there was anything that might have made the suicide less likely said that closer contact with the patient's family may have been helpful.

Number of patient[1] suicide cases with bipolar disorder, England, 1999 to 2008

	Number
1999	102
2000	115
2001	124
2002	136
2003	116
2004	124
2005	113
2006	92
2007	111
2008[2]	85

[1] An individual that had been in receipt of mental health care from secondary mental health services in the 12 months prior to suicide.
[2] 2008 = Not complete prior to suicide.

Number of clinicians who mentioned closer contact with patient's family may have made suicide less likely in those with bipolar disorder, England, 1999 to 2008

	Number	Valid (percentage)
1999	16	17
2000	18	16
2001	25	21
2002	18	14
2003	18	17
2004	14	12
2005	8	8
2006	10	12
2007	11	10
2008[1]	14	17

[1] 2008 = Not complete, final figure may differ.

Hemofil T: Clinical Trials

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the age was of the youngest person on the Hemofil T trial in the early 1980s. [26086]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information. Hemofil T was a commercial product, so the clinical trials would have been conducted by the manufacturer Hyland-Travenol (now Baxter Healthcare).

Mental Health Services

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of deaths in psychiatric care were due to natural causes in each of the last five years. [25254]

Paul Burstow: The information is not collected in the format requested. However, data are collected by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by people with Mental Illness (NCI/NCISH) which shows that there has been a fall of 46% in the number of psychiatric in-patients who have died by suicide over the last 10-year period for which figures are available.

Multiple Sclerosis: Research

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has assessed the effectiveness of the Zamboni treatment for alleviating the symptoms of multiple sclerosis. [26000]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Alyn and Deeside (Mark Tami) on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 253-55W.

NHS: Nurses

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have announced reductions in nursing staff since May 2010. [26530]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Local health-care organisations know the health-care needs and priorities of their local populations. They are best placed to determine the work force required to deliver safe patient care within their available resources.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were recruited by the NHS in 2009-10. [26541]

Anne Milton: The National Health Service Hospital and Community Health Service monthly work force statistics show that the number of qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff joining the national health service in England between September 2009 and August 2010 was 24,507.

Pharmacy

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on commissioning more services from community pharmacies. [26008]

Mr Simon Burns: Our NHS White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' makes clear we want pharmacists, working with doctors and other health professionals, to have an important and expanding role in optimising the use of medicines and supporting better health.

Subject to available funding and ensuring we strike the right balance between incentivising uptake and demonstrating positive patient outcomes, We support moves, currently being discussed between NHS Employers and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, to better focus resources on patients who can benefit most. This includes better targeting of medicines use review services and supporting patients with a long-term condition who are newly prescribed a medicine to derive the maximum benefit from their treatment.

Our forthcoming public health White Paper will set out our commitment to further developing the contribution of community pharmacies, a valuable and trusted public health resource, to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities. The Department's Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Dr Keith Ridge, will be working with the public health community to realise pharmacy's potential.

In addition, primary care trusts are to publish their final pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) by 1 February 2011 following local consultation. PNAs, closely aligned to joint strategic needs assessments, are to be a strategic planning tool on which future commissioning decisions for effective community pharmacy services which demonstrate good patient outcomes are to be taken.

Respiratory Diseases: Health Services

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital admissions there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) the Hove primary care trust area and (ii) each other primary care trust area in each year since 2007; [26005]

(2) how many hospital bed days there were for *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* all respiratory diseases in (i) the Hove primary care trust area and (ii) each other primary care trust area in (A) 2007, (B) 2008 and (C) 2009. [26006]

Mr Simon Burns: This information has been placed in the Library.

South West Essex Primary Care Trust: Expenditure

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the level of expenditure at South West Essex primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [26043]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not received any formal representations on the level of expenditure at South West Essex primary care trust (PCT).

However, the Department has received a small number of correspondence to do with the PCT's funding and commissioning decisons and the effect of the turnaround plan which the PCT has put in place in order to meet its statutory duty to break even at the end of the financial year.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers in his Department last met the European Commissioner for Health and Consumers; whether the matters of the effects of the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the provisions of article 5 of the EU food supplements directive was discussed; when Ministers in his Department next plan to meet the Commissioner; and whether the agenda for that meeting will include the setting of such levels. [26049]

Anne Milton: I wrote to European Commissioner John Dalli in October to raise industry concerns and I met with him on 19 November to discuss this issue. The Commissioner recognises the concerns raised and has provided reassurance that the levels will be set based on risk assessment and potential harm and take account the concerns expressed by all interested parties. No further meetings are planned at this stage.

The Department works closely with the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to secure the UK's objectives in negotiations. However, the European Commission has yet to publish its proposal for maximum levels and discussions are not expected to resume until spring 2011.

EDUCATION

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education to what projects and programmes he plans to allocate funds saved as a result of spending reductions in respect of Building Schools for the Future. [16760]

Mr Gibb: Savings from the cancellation of the wasteful Building Schools for the Future programme will not be separately allocated, but will contribute to allocation to real need when the capital spending review is completed.

On 5 July the Government launched a review of all areas of the Department for Education's capital spending. Its purpose is to ensure that schools capital is spent efficiently and in ways that meet real need. Future investment will be focused on ensuring that there are sufficient school places and to addressing the condition need of the educational estate. The capital review team will complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to meet representatives of Bolton council to discuss the Building Schools for the Future Programme. [24018]

Mr Gibb: My noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford has written to the Director of Corporate Resources at Bolton metropolitan borough council offering to meet members of the council and local MPs.

Children: Service Personnel

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department makes available additional per capita funding for the children of service personnel. [24366]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* No specific additional funding is currently provided by the Department for Education for the children of service personnel. We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October, which included proposals to extend the pupil premium to the children of service personnel and provide additional support to schools who experience a high turnover of children from service families.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people at *(a)* Regent College and *(b)* Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College receive education maintenance allowance. [22318]

Mr Gibb: It is not possible to provide information about the number of young people at Regent College or Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College who receive an education maintenance allowance. Neither the Department for Education nor the Young People's Learning Agency holds information about EMA take-up by individual institution.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on his proposed changes to education maintenance allowance. [23015]

Mr Gibb: Between 20 October and 5 November 2010, the Department for Education has received a total of 76 letters and emails about the changes to the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme. Ministers have also recently met the Association of Colleges where this issue was raised.

The EMA scheme will close at the end of the current academic year. It will be replaced by an enhanced learner support fund, managed locally, which will target support more closely to those young people facing the most significant financial barriers to participation.

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the replacement for the education maintenance allowance. [23873]

Mr Gibb: The education maintenance allowance scheme will close at the end of the 2010-11 academic year and no new applications will be processed from 1 January 2011. It will be replaced by an enhanced Discretionary Learner Support Fund. Decisions about which young people should receive financial support from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund will be made by schools, colleges and training providers, who are in a better position than Government to determine the needs of individual students. They will target support to those young people who most need it to continue in education.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people in each local authority in England were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in 2009-10. [26366]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Westminster North with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in *Hansard* and the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Ashton-in-Makerfield

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in Makerfield constituency claimed education maintenance allowance in each of the last three years. [23214]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Makerfield with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people in Bolton claimed education maintenance allowance in each of the last five years. [23014]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bolton North East with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students at schools and colleges in Liverpool have received education maintenance allowance payments in each of the last five years; and how much the average annual grant received by such students was in each such year. [23198]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Liverpool Riverside with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in *Hansard* and the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* Northumberland have received education maintenance allowance in the last 12 months. [22933]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Wansbeck with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Public Expenditure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on education maintenance allowance in 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the replacement scheme for education maintenance allowance in 2014-15. [19499]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* £569 million was spent on education maintenance allowance in 2009-10. £26 million has been invested in 2010-11 in a discretionary learner support fund. With the ending of EMA, this fund will be increased. Further details will be announced in due course.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students normally resident in Warrington North constituency receive education maintenance allowance; and what estimate he has made of the number who will receive this allowance following implementation of proposals in the comprehensive spending review. [19372]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* Figures on take-up of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) are a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the scheme for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Warrington North with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of young people in Wimbledon constituency in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [23181]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Wimbledon with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in *Hansard* and the House Libraries.

Education: Children

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effects on the educational attainment of children of the undertaking by a parent of military service in Afghanistan. [24365]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* Research by the Department shows that service children who regularly move schools tend to underperform and several studies have found that children in military families face certain social and emotional challenges. But overall, a higher proportion of service children achieve expected levels in English and mathematics at key stage 1 and 2 than their peers; and a higher proportion achieve five A*-C GCSEs. However, it remains important that schools are aware of the challenges facing children of those who are on active service, or who have recently returned from active service, and are ready to offer appropriate support when necessary.

Education: Finance

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what level of funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* the Dedicated Schools Grant, *(b)* the School Standards Grant and School Standards Grant (Personalisation), *(c)* the School Development Grant, *(d)* the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant, *(e)* the Early Years: Extending and increasing the flexibility of the entitlement for three to four year olds grant, *(f)* the School Lunch grant, *(g)* Extended Schools grants within the Standards Fund, *(h)* the General Annual Grant for all academies, *(i)* resources devolved to schools for school improvement, *(j)* funding for one-to-one provision and *(k)* Every Child interventions in 2010-11. [18255]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* 2010-11 allocations through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant and Standards Fund (to which *(c)* to *(k)* relate) are available on the Department's website through the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which of his Department's *(a)* grants and *(b)* funding streams it classifies as core schools funding. [18256]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* As part of the announcement of the outcome of the spending review announced on 20 October 2010, we confirmed that the following grants/funding streams are protected and form the core budget for schools going forward:

Funds allocated for one-to-one tuition
Every Child programmes
Extended schools
School lunch grant
School standards grant
School development grant
Specialist schools grant
Ethnic minority achievement grant
National Strategies' budgets that were allocated to schools
Dedicated schools grant
Academies running costs.

Engineering: Specialised Diplomas

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he plans to make available for the engineering diploma qualification in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [16581]

Mr Gibb: We anticipate funding local authorities with a total of £8.6 million of diploma formula grant for the engineering diploma in 2010-11 for 14 to 16-year-olds, based on the forecast key stage 4 diploma student numbers that they submitted to the Department in July 2010. This funding is in addition to mainstream funding for schools. Places for engineering diploma students aged 16 to 18 are fully funded by the Young People's Learning Agency, as with all accredited qualifications, but their allocations to institutions are not made on the basis of specific qualifications and as such we cannot say how much will fund the engineering diploma in 2010-11. Further details on funding for 2011-12 will be made clear when the Department for Communities and Local Government announces local authority allocations and on the publication of the statement of priorities for the Young People's Learning Agency.

Free Schools

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many proposals to establish a free school his Department has received from *(a)* individuals, *(b)* groups and *(c)* organisations to date; and how many such applications have been granted agreement to proceed to the next stage in each such category to date. [22327]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has received over 130 Free School proposals since the launch of the policy, from individuals, groups and organisations. On 5 November, names of the first 25 Free School proposals approved to progress to business case and plan stage were published on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely number of free schools in September 2011. [22372]

Mr Gibb: As of 5 November 2010, 25 Free School proposals have been approved to progress to the business case and plan stage, most of which are aiming to open in September 2011.

Free Schools: Birmingham

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in the free schools scheme he has received from groups based in *(a)* Birmingham local education authority area and *(b)* Birmingham Hall Green constituency. [23449]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold, collect or receive expressions of interest about Free Schools. To date, there have been 11 Free School proposals from the Birmingham local authority area and six from the Birmingham Hall Green constituency.

New Schools Network

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects to complete his Department's performance review of the grant provided to the New Schools Network for the administration of the free schools programme; and if he will make a statement. [22453]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* Under its grant agreement with the Department, New Schools Network (NSN) provides advice to groups wishing to establish Free Schools. NSN does not administer the Free Schools programme.

As with any arrangement of this nature, regular monitoring and review will be carried out by the Department. An interim review of performance against the grant agreement is scheduled for February 2011.

New Schools Network: Freedom of Information

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 612W, on the New Schools Network, on what date he plans to reply to the request made by Mr Singer under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and how many days have elapsed since the date on which the response was due to be made. [23068]

Mr Gibb: Mr Singer's freedom of information request was answered on 14 October 2010, approximately two months after the due date.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what date he expects the first cash payments under the proposed pupil premium formula to be made to schools. [16324]

Mr Gibb: Our intention is that the pupil premium will be payable from 2011. The consultation on school funding that we launched on 26 July 2010 ended on 18 October 2010 and we are now considering over 700 responses that we have received. Exact details about how the grant will be paid and the exact date of its introduction have, therefore, not yet been determined. A statement of the outcome of the consultation will be made shortly.

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has plans to provide additional financial support to schools with a high number of deprived pupils after the introduction of the pupil premium; [20448]

(2) what his timetable is for setting the criteria for determining which pupils will qualify for the pupil premium. [20449]

Mr Gibb: The Government have no plans to provide additional funding further to what we announced in the spending review for the pupil premium, in addition to the underlying schools budget. The pupil premium will rise progressively year on year to £2.5 billion in 2014-15.

We have publicly consulted on the methodology of the pupil premium and are currently considering responses. We will announce further information about the pupil premium—including details of criteria for the premium—in good time to give notice to schools and local authorities.

Pupils: Travellers

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of children of school age in communities of *(a)* Gypsy or Roma and *(b)* Travellers of Irish heritage who are not in full-time education; and whether his Department plans to ensure that full-time education is received by all children in such communities. [23263]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* Information about the number of children who are not in full-time education is not collected centrally.

Local authorities in England and Wales have had, since February 2007, a statutory duty to make arrangements to identify all children missing from education in their area. The duty applies in relation to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being at school (for example, being educated at home, privately educated or in alternative provision).

It is important that schools and local authorities implement the systems and regulations and follow the guidance in place around keeping registers, excluding pupils and removing pupils from the school roll. Schools must fulfil their requirement to inform local authorities when pupils' names are deleted from the school roll or have "disappeared" following 10 days unauthorised absence from the school. Notifying the local authority is important because the local authority can then attempt to trace the children and ensure that any pupils whose names removed from the roll of a school are receiving a suitable education.

School Sport Partnerships

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what evidence he evaluated in his assessment of School Sport Partnerships. [23354]

Mr Gibb: The annual PE and sport survey has collected data relating to PE and school sport since 2003. The 2009-10 survey showed that, after investment of £2.4 billion of Exchequer and lottery funding and seven years of work, only around two in every five pupils play competitive sport regularly within their own school, and only one in five plays regularly against other schools. The coalition Government are committed to creating an annual Olympic-style school sport event to encourage more competitive sport in schools. Our approach differs fundamentally from that of the last Government. While the network of school sport partnerships helped schools to increase participation rates in areas targeted by the previous Government, the proportion of pupils playing regular competitive sport has remained disappointingly low.

Schools: Capital Investment

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much and what proportion of school capital spending the Minister expects to allocate to *(a)* existing comprehensive schools, *(b)* existing academies, *(c)* new comprehensive schools and *(d)* new academies or free schools in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [21989]

Mr Gibb: The review of DfE capital led by Sebastian James has all aspects of DfE capital within scope, including capital for schools of all types as well as for other children's services. It is due to report to Ministers by the end of the calendar year. In the light of its advice, and as soon as possible after it has reported, Ministers will take decisions on the allocation and management of DfE capital. As such, it is not yet possible to state what the proportions will be for schools of each type.

Schools: Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will make an estimate of the number of redundancies likely to be made by schools as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review; [21580]

(2) if he will make an estimate of likely cost to schools of staff redundancy arising from spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21581]

(3) if he will estimate the number of teachers likely to be made redundant as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21582]

Mr Gibb: We have made no estimate. Overall, funding for schools—including funding for the new pupil premium—will rise in real terms over the CSR period. We are providing maximum flexibility to schools in relation to how they spend the budgets allocated to them. It is for governors and head teachers to decide how best to use their budgets to ensure the best outcomes for their pupils. Due to the public sector pay freeze, increases in schools costs will be below real terms.

Schools: Rural Areas

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to continue measures to prevent the closure of rural schools; and if he will make a statement. [22599]

Mr Gibb: We recognise the importance of preserving access to a local school for rural communities. We, therefore, plan for the presumption against closure of rural schools to continue. The presumption does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and in the best interests of educational provision in the area. As existing guidance makes clear, where schools are closing to be replaced by an academy there is a general presumption that closures will be approved.

Schools: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much capital spending he plans to allocate to schools in Warrington in the next four financial years; and which schools in Warrington will be *(a)* rebuilt and *(b)* refurbished under the Government's new capital programme. [19908]

Mr Gibb: Capital allocations for the next four years for Warrington and other local authorities have yet to be determined. It is therefore not possible at this stage to estimate how many schools will be rebuilt or refurbished. The review of all areas of Department for Education's capital spending will enable us to use capital more effectively and efficiently. We will focus capital where it is most needed: areas that need new places for rising pupil numbers and schools in the worst condition. Capital will be spent more efficiently than the bureaucratic and wasteful Building Schools for the Future programme.

The Secretary of State for Education announced the review on 5 July and it is due to report to Ministers by the end of the calendar year. We will announce allocations as soon as possible.

Special Educational Needs

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information local authorities are required to provide to parents of deaf children on *(a)* the number of teachers with a mandatory qualification in teaching deaf children, *(b)* specialist provision for deaf children and *(c)* outcomes of assessments of the standard and effectiveness of services for deaf children in their areas. [22807]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: We do not routinely collect data regarding the number of teachers of the hearing impaired by region. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that teachers of the hearing impaired possess the appropriate mandatory qualification to undertake the role. It is a matter for local authorities to ensure that they have enough qualified teachers to meet their statutory commitments.

The school work force census should from November 2011 collect data on what additional qualifications teachers have and this will allow us, for the first time, to ascertain the numbers of teachers who possess the mandatory qualification for teaching children with sensory impairments.

The Department does not require local authorities to provide specific information on deaf children. However, the Special Educational Needs (Provision of Information by Local Education Authorities) Regulations 2001 and the School Information Regulations 2008 require local authorities to publish their arrangements and policies on the provision available for children with special educational needs, which will include deaf children.

The Special Educational Needs Information Act 2008 requires the annual publication of information about children in England with special educational needs. The information published includes local authority data on outcomes for these children by SEN type, including hearing impairment, at key stages 2 and 4 in English, Maths and Science.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many communication support workers for deaf children are employed in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England. [22809]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: We do not routinely collect data regarding the number of communication support workers for deaf children in mainstream schools either nationally or by region.

It is a matter for local authorities to ensure that their work force is sufficient to meet their statutory commitments.

Teachers: Males

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the number of male primary school teachers. [22574]

Mr Gibb: The Government are currently considering a wide range of issues around the future of teacher training and, in particular, what steps they should take to ensure that we have an adequate supply of high quality teachers, and how the best people can be attracted into the profession. The number of men teaching in primary schools is one of these issues.

Teaching Methods

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) with reference to his Department's press notice on the 2010 Spending Review of 20 October 2010, what mechanism he plans to adopt to divide between schools the funding previously allocated to the Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts programmes after this academic year; [21711]

(2) whether funding previously allocated by his Department to the Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts programmes will be divided between all schools when calculating the baseline budget for 2010-11. [22116]

Mr Gibb: Funding for Every Child a Reader (ECAR) and Every Child Counts (ECC) is part of the schools budget announced in the spending review, which will increase by 0.1% in real terms each year. Details of school funding allocations for 2011-12 will be announced later in the autumn. It will be for local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, to decide whether to take account of the previous level of this funding in each school when making their 2011-12 allocations to schools.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will prepare an implementation plan for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in England; [20263]

(2) whether his Department has made specific budgetary provision for co-ordinating the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. [20277]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* This Government are committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to its implementation in the UK. The education, health and well-being of children are vitally important for our society and the principles and standards defined in the convention are an important framework for our thinking.

The coalition Government are committed to specific policies that will progress the UN Committee's Concluding Observations. These include: ending the detention of children for immigration purposes; eradicating child poverty; supporting children that are most vulnerable and improving child protection; encouraging and enabling young people to engage in decision-making at national level and in their communities and combating negative perceptions. We are also reviewing the role of the Children's Commissioner in the context of the Government's commitment to the UNCRC. A statement and evidence of compliance will be prepared as a platform for the next report to the UN Committee in 2014.

The spending review has set out departmental budgets in broad terms and will allow for Department of State functions such as supporting implementation of the UNCRC.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to which organisations his Department has *(a)* made grants in 2010-11 and *(b)* allocated grants for (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13; and what the monetary value of each such grant is. [26112]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* Budgeted expenditure on grants in 2010-11 is £804.3 million. Budgets are set by programme rather than recipient organisation. The following breakdown represents amounts paid or committed so far in 2010-11. Some budgeted amounts are unallocated at this point in the year. The breakdown shows individual organisations or sectors receiving £1 million or more:

Organisation	*£ million*
Over 180,000 Households	334.2
World Bank	250.0
Carbon Trust	99.1
Energy Savings Trust	36.5
Private sector companies<£1m	10.9
NaREC	6.8
Wave Hub	6.5
European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC)	5.7
Clipper Windpower Marine Ltd	5.7
Siemens plc	5.0
Technology Strategy Board	4.0
Vestas Technology UK Ltd	3.7
JDR Cable systems Ltd	2.0
Burntisland Fabrications Ltd	1.5
Highview Power Storage	1.1
Scottish Hydro	1.0
Converteam Technology Ltd	1.0
Local communities	3.5
Local government	1.1
Others <£1 million	0.7
Planned but not yet allocated	24.3
Total	804.3

Grants to household relate mainly to measures to improve the fuel efficiency of homes. Grants to private sector companies relate mainly to the development of renewables technology.

Budgets for 2011-12 and 2012-13 have not yet been set. A business planning exercise is currently under way to determine how the spending review settlement will be allocated.

Energy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the proportion of people who *(a)* have switched energy tariffs, *(b)* find energy suppliers' tariffs confusing and *(c)* are able to identify potential savings from switching supplier since the completion of Ofgem's consumer engagement summary in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [25372]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold the information requested. To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem collects relevant information, including on switching.

Since the publication of its consumer engagement survey in August 2008 Ofgem has, in an update report published in March 2010, found that switching levels have fallen slightly, with 17% of gas customers and 18% of electricity customers switching during 2009, down from 20% for electricity and 19% for gas during 2008. However, Ofgem point out that this was in the context of the more static pricing strategies seen during 2009.

This report also found that 8% of those who have never switched say they found the number of tariffs confusing. In addition, 67% of customers who had switched their electricity supplier and 64% who had switched their gas supplier believe they are now paying less as a result of their switch. This is a statistically significant improvement for electricity where, in 2008, 62% said they believed they were paying less than they would have without switching.

The Ofgem report is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Update%20on%20Probe%20Monitoring_FINAL.pdf

The primary research conducted by MORI for Ofgem is also available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Publications/Documents1/Ipsos-MORI%20switchingsurvey2009.pdf

Energy: Overseas Companies

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department plans to allocate to assist UK companies working overseas to *(a)* increase the availability of energy supplies and *(b)* take advantage of business opportunities in that sector in each year of the spending review period. [26684]

Charles Hendry: Funding is not allocated directly to UK companies working overseas, however, increasing global investment in essential oil and gas production and promoting low carbon growth while maximising opportunities for UK energy companies are priorities for the Department. We will continue to work closely in this area with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade and Investment over the spending review period.

Geothermal Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of deep geothermal energy generation. [26350]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is helping to develop the UK deep geothermal sector through its Deep Geothermal Challenge Fund (DGCF). The Government announced £1 million for the second round of the DGCF in July 2010, and the review of bids is currently under way.

The Government recognise the potential for deep geothermal energy to deliver low carbon, renewable and non-intermittent electricity and heat in the UK, contributing to our targets on climate change and energy security.

Oil and Gas: Prices

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely trends in the price of *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas in the next five years. [26028]

Charles Hendry: The Department for Energy and Climate Change does not publish energy price forecasts. It publishes oil, gas and coal price assumptions for the period till 2030, which are used in the Department's analytical work. These assumptions can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/media/viewfile.ashx?filetype=4&filepath=Statistics/Projections/69-annex-f--fossil-fuel-and-retail-price-assumptions.xlsx&minwidth=true

Renewable Energy

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department plans to allocate to encourage *(a)* the development of renewable energy and *(b)* the efficient use of energy in the next three years. [25150]

Charles Hendry: The main financial mechanisms that the Government have to incentivise the generation of renewable electricity are the Renewables Obligation (RO) and the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme:

> The RO supports large-scale generation of renewable electricity. Since its introduction in 2002, it has tripled the level of renewable electricity in the UK from 1.8% to 6.7%[1] in 2009, and is currently worth around £1.4 billion/year[2] in support to the renewable electricity industry. The spending review announced that this level of funding will continue, confirming the Government's commitment to the increase of renewable electricity. The Electricity Market Reform consultation document is due to be published next month and will set out proposals for changes to the existing market in order to meet our renewables and decarbonisation goals. But whatever the proposal, Government understands the need for investor certainty, and is not looking to make retrospective changes.
>
> The FIT scheme was launched on 1 April of this year and supports small-scale low carbon electricity generation up to 5 MW (2 kW for microCHP) in capacity. Initial figures for the first six months of the scheme (taken from Ofgem's online database) indicate that 8,960 installations commissioned since the announcement of the scheme in July 2009 were supported. This amounts to a total installed capacity of 35.8 MW.

In addition, the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is due to go ahead in June 2011 to support renewable heat. We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the scheme before the end of this year.

DECC will continue to fund a targeted Warm Front programme for the next two years to provide support for heating and insulation measures for the most vulnerable households. Warm Front and associated fuel poverty funding of £110 million in 2011-12 and £100 million in 2012-13 will be available.

In addition, to December 2012 energy companies are expected to invest more than £2 billion in the promotion of energy efficiency measures to householders to achieve their obligations under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and Community Energy Saving Programme.

The Green Deal, which will be introduced in late 2012, will provide households and businesses energy efficiency improvements at no up-front cost, with consumers repaying through the savings they make on their energy bills.

[1] Department of Energy and Climate Change, June 2010 Energy Trends.

[2] Ofgem:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/RenewablObl/Pages/RenewablObl.aspx

PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces: Afghanistan

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Prime Minister on what date the National Security Council first discussed the decision that the armed forces would cease their combat role in Afghanistan by 2015. [26339]

The Prime Minister: It is long-standing Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

BBC

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 782W, on the BBC, whether *(a)* he, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* special advisers in his Office have had meetings with the Director-General of the BBC since 1 August 2010 which are not to be listed in the published list of official meetings between Ministers and external organisations. [26087]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 782W.

Business: East of England

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Prime Minister on what date *(a)* his Office received the petition from the East of England Space for Ideas Business Group and *(b)* he responded to that petition. [25925]

The Prime Minister: My office received the petition from East of England Space for Ideas Business Group on 16 September 2010. A reply has been sent.

Trident Successor Programme

Michael Dugher: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether the National Security Council has made a recent *(a)* estimate of the cumulative private finance initiative liabilities of the Ministry of Defence to 2020 and *(b)* impact assessment on the effects of those liabilities of that Department's capacity to fund the Trident successor programme; [26335]

(2) whether the National Security Council has made a recent estimate of the level of unfunded liabilities in the long-term costings of the Ministry of Defence attributable to the Government's commitment to the Trident successor programme; and if he will make a statement. [26336]

The Prime Minister: It is long-standing Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

TREASURY

Banks: Assets

Mr Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the implications of the Office of Fair Trading's inquiry into barriers to entry, expansion and exit in the UK banking market on the timetable for divestment of branch assets by part-nationalised banks; and if he will make a statement; [11972]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of the Government's policy to bring forward proposals to create a more competitive banking market on the timetable for the divestment of branch assets by part-nationalised banks; and if he will make a statement. [11973]

Mr Hoban: As a condition of European Commission approval for the state aid that the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) have received, both banks have committed to divest branch-based retail assets by the end of 2013 at the latest. Subject to complying with the terms of the agreement with the Commission, the timing of the sales is a matter for the firms concerned.

In June the Chancellor announced the establishment of the Independent Commission on Banking, chaired by Sir John Vickers, which will make recommendations to Government on promoting competition in the banking sector.

Banks: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to increase representation by UK Financial Investments Ltd on the boards of banks in receipt of public funding. [13536]

Mr Hoban: The Government's shareholdings in banks are managed on a commercial and arm's length basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI are required to do this in a way that is consistent with the Treasury's aim not to be a permanent investor in UK financial institutions—the Government are clear that British banks are best owned and managed commercially.

UKFI believes that Government investee banks need strong boards, and work with banks to achieve this. The appointments process to the boards of RBS and Lloyds are run by their nominations committee, and UKFI works with the banks' boards in line with the Framework Document remit to strengthen membership through the appointment of suitably qualified, independent non-executives.

Under UK company law, directors cannot represent individual shareholders' interests. Accordingly, while these directors have been appointed with the agreement of UKFI, they are not and cannot be UKFI's representatives and will not report directly to them.

Credit Unions

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to lay before Parliament for approval a draft Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order; what discussions he has had on revisions to the draft order laid before Parliament on 8 March 2010; what revisions he plans to make in consequence; and if he will make a statement. [11291]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to the mutuals sector, as set out in the coalition agreement. The proposed Legislative Reform Order (LRO) includes a number of measures designed to modernise the operation of industrial and provident societies and credit unions.

The Treasury is considering the reports of the House of Lords Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee and of the House of Commons Regulatory Reform Committee. I expect the LRO to be re-laid for final scrutiny shortly.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the special report of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on Equitable Life, Injustice unremedied: the Government's response to Equitable Life, Session 2008-09, HC435. [10618]

Mr Hoban: In our programme for government, we stated that we would:

> "implement the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman's recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policy holders, through an independent payment scheme, for their relative loss as a consequence of regulatory failure."

On 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 949-65, as part of the spending review we announced that we have made up to £1.5 billion available to fund the scheme and that the first payments to policyholders would be made by the middle of next year.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on methods of providing compensation for Equitable Life policyholders. [13346]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he plans to make the first payments to Equitable Life policyholders affected by maladministration in the regulation of that society; what estimate he has made of the total sum to be paid to policyholders; and to how many policyholders he expects to make payment. [18034]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 20 October 2010]*: We are committed to making payments as quickly as is possible and our ambition is to make first payments in the middle of 2011. The Chancellor's spending review statement to the House on 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 949-65, set out that in the region of £1.5 billion would be made available for the scheme.

The Government have established the Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments, chaired by Brian Pomeroy, which will make recommendations on how to design the payments scheme including how to allocate payments between the policyholders who have suffered relative loss as a result of regulatory failure.

EU Member States: Child Benefit

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with his EU counterparts an amendment to EU Regulation 883/2004 to remove from non-UK workers from other EU member states the entitlement to claim child benefit at the UK rate in respect of children not resident in the UK. [21217]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 2 November 2010]*: HM Revenue and Customs and the Treasury have regular discussions with EU counterparts as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The UK has administered the EC social security co-ordinating regulations (EC Regulation 1408/71, with effect from 1 May 2010 EC Regulation 883/2004) since it joined the European Economic Community in 1973. The regulations protect the social security rights of nationals of all member states, including the UK, and their families when exercising rights of free movement within the European Economic Area. Amendments to the regulations require a proposal by the European Commission and are subject to co-decision with the European Parliament and the Council.

Moreover, without reciprocity to remove the equivalent family benefit entitlement of UK nationals who work and pay compulsory social insurance contributions in other member states, the amendment as proposed would breach one of the fundamental principles of EC law that there must be no discrimination on the grounds of nationality when applying the rights set out in the treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and other measures in Community law to give effect to such rights.

Mortgages: Certification

Mr Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to end self-certification of mortgages; and if he will make a statement. [10045]

Mr Hoban: The coalition Government believe that it is right for the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to ensure that the UK mortgage market has responsible lending practices. This will ensure a sustainable market that works better for consumers.

HM Treasury will continue to work with the FSA, mortgage lenders and consumer groups to ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 21217, on amendment to child benefit regulations, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire on 28 October 2010 for answer on 2 November 2010. [26452]

Justine Greening: I have now replied to the hon. Member.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the 2010 targets for priority species and habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan were last renewed; and when she expects next to renew them. [26320]

Richard Benyon: UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets for England were last renewed in 2006.

We have committed in our Structural Reform Plan to publishing a new England Biodiversity Strategy next April, setting out our new approach.

Biodiversity targets for species and habitats in other parts of the UK are a matter for the devolved administrations.

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has held with representatives of the *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* UK fishing industry on reductions in bycatch through changes to (i) the use of equipment and (ii) fishing practices; [25909]

(2) what discussions she has had with representatives of the *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* UK fishing industry on the use of larger net mesh sizes to minimise the catch of juvenile cod; [25910]

(3) what her policy is on negotiating at EU level for differential catch quotas within the UK in order to incentivise lower bycatch and discard rates; [25912]

(4) what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* temporary localised fishing bans and *(b)* CCTV on vessels to monitor catches in reducing levels of bycatch in the North Sea; [25913]

(5) what estimate she has made of the quantity and proportion of dead fish caught in UK waters which were discarded at sea in the latest period for which figures are available; [25916]

(6) what her policy is on negotiations on reform of the EU common fisheries policy to minimise the number of dead fish caught in UK waters which are discarded at sea by means of a limit on the total amounts of fish *(a)* caught and *(b)* landed. [26047]

Richard Benyon: The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture (CEFAS) and Marine Scotland Science send scientific observers to sea with fishermen to sample the quantity of fish discarded and retained by fishing vessels. This sampling is intended to provide estimates of discards of the main commercial species, but at present is not fully representative of all UK fisheries. It is only possible to sample a proportion of the vessels participating in any fishery.

Approximately 294,878 tonnes of quota stocks were landed into port by UK vessels in 2009. Estimates of landings and discards by English and Welsh vessels fishing in UK waters in 2009 were provided for the following fisheries:

Areas:

North Sea (ICES area IV), and waters to the south and west of England and Wales (ICES VII).

Fleet:

English and Welsh demersal fishing vessels (over 10 metres in length).

Species:

Demersal fish (species that live on or near the seafloor eg cod, haddock, plaice, sole, anglerfish etc.).

Estimated landings and discards:

30,160 tonnes were landed and 18,500 tonnes were discarded.

Areas:

North Sea IVa (pelagic mackerel and herring).

Fleet:

UK vessels fishing for pelagic species.

Species:

Mackerel and herring.

Estimated landings and discards:

68,347 tonnes were landed and 8,278 tonnes were discarded.

Areas:

North Sea, West Coast and Northern Shelf.

Fleet:

Scottish vessels

Species:

Cod, haddock, whiting and saithe.

Estimated landings and discards:

59,763 tonnes were landed and 24,401 tonnes were discarded.

We are urging all member states and EU institutions to take the opportunity through reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP) to radically overhaul the way we manage fisheries in order to overcome the CFP's serious failures, not least in addressing discards. We want a reformed CFP to provide the incentives and regulatory framework to enable us to catch less but land more, for example replacing landing based quota with catch quotas.

The UK has been piloting an alternative quota management system for cod based on catch quotas (a quota for what you catch rather than land at port). Interim results from these trials are positive: discards of cod are low (1-7%) and fishermen are fishing more selectively in order to maximise the value of their catches. The interim report is available from the CEFAS website at:

http://www.cefas.co.uk/

An expansion of this scheme, both in terms of the number and type of vessel participating and the number of species, is essential to gain further evidence on the wider application of catch quotas in mixed fisheries. The European Commission and its technical advisers (The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries) are supportive of our intentions to expand the scheme.

Discussions regularly take place with representatives of the fishing industry on reducing discards through improving gear selectivity and altering fishing practices. For example, the Discard Action Group is a forum, facilitated by seafish, that brings industry, managers, scientists, and seafood organisations together to discuss research, share knowledge and come up with novel ways to reduce discards. The industry has been encouraged through such groups to use gear modifications or methods which are successful at reducing discards.

There are many examples of collaborative work to reduce discards which have been carried out by the UK fishing industry in partnership with the UK fisheries departments. The Fisheries Science Partnership (FSP) is one example of a continuing initiative to encourage industry-led research on a range of subjects, including the trials of alternative fishing gears, eg square mesh panels used to reduce the bycatch of cod in other whitefish and prawn (Nephrops) fisheries.

The UK has been at the forefront of encouraging uptake of measures to reduce discards of cod. For example, this has been achieved through the Scottish Conservation Credits Scheme and English/Northern Irish equivalents. Incentives of extra days at sea for the industry are used to encourage uptake of selectivity measures (eg increasing mesh sizes) to reduce the bycatch and subsequent discarding of juvenile cod. Since 2009, this scheme has been enhanced with mandatory real time closures (RTCs) in operation throughout the cod recovery zone. We believe that localised RTCs provide the necessary protection for local aggregations of fish, and that these closures are beneficial for the health of the protected stock.

The industry has also been involved in targeted regional pilots like 'Project 50%'. On average vessels participating in these trials managed to reduce discards in the South West beam trawl fleet by an average of 52%.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Scottish Government and *(b)* her EU counterparts on reform of the EU common fisheries policy; [25914]

(2) what recent representations she has received from representatives of the *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* UK fishing industry on reform of the common fisheries policy. [25915]

Richard Benyon: I and my officials have held regular discussions on reform of the EU common fisheries policy (CFP) with the Scottish Government in recent months, including at a ministerial event in Aberdeen in October, which also involved the EU Fisheries Commissioner. I will be discussing CFP reform with EU ministerial colleagues at November's EU Fisheries Council.

I have also received written and oral representations on CFP reform from a broad spectrum of fisheries interests from across the UK, including fishing organisations from Scotland.

Departmental Services: Post Office

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value was of contracts between her Department and its predecessors and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24922]

Richard Benyon: The Department was formed in 2001; to provide information for an earlier period would incur disproportionate cost.

The table shows expenditure with *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in each year since 2004-05 for the Department and its executive agencies.

£

	Royal Mail	*Post Office Ltd*
2004-05	3,560,278.91	0.00
2005-06	2,339,553.99	310,671.18
2006-07	3,599,076.73	314,930.33
2007-08	2,867,327.31	106,429.90
2008-09	2,760,311.75	0.00
2009-10	2,913,127.91	0.00

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the post office network. [24925]

Richard Benyon: The Department publishes its requirements under the Government and EU procurement standards and processes to allow all possible suppliers to make representations to secure contracts for government services. It is not allowed under these procurement standards to give preferential treatment to any supplier, seeking the best value for money provision.

Dogs: Electric Shock Collars

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she made of the merits of bringing forward proposals for a ban on electric shock collars for dogs. [26697]

Mr Paice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick), 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 293W.

EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Ministers in her Department have attended each EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting since 11 May 2010; and for how long each such Minister attended each such meeting. [26319]

Richard Benyon: Three DEFRA Ministers have attended EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council Meetings since 11 May 2010

Date of Council	*Minister(s) attending*	*Duration of attendance (days)*
17 May 2010	Secretary of State	1
29 June 2010	Minister of State for Agriculture and Food and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Fisheries	1
12 July 2010	Minister of State for Agriculture and Food	1
27 September 2010	Minister of State for Agriculture and Food	1
26 October 2010	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Fisheries	1

Floods: Cornwall

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the total cost of clear up following the recent flooding in Cornwall. [26357]

Richard Benyon: Cornwall council is continuing its clean up and recovery work following last week's flooding, and is assessing the damages caused and other costs incurred. No estimate has yet been made of the total costs. We also expect the Association of British Insurers will be assessing the costs to the insurance industry.

Food: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had at *(a)* EU and *(b)* UN level on (i) trends in global food prices in 2011-12 and (ii) levels of global production of corn and wheat. [26012]

Mr Paice: EU Ministers discussed cereal prices and their effect on the EU livestock sector at the September Agriculture and Fisheries Council. DEFRA officials also attend the Single Common Market Organisation Management Committee, at which the EU and global cereals market situation is reviewed on a fortnightly basis.

At UN level DEFRA was represented at the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Committee on World Food Security in October and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Groups on Grains and Rice which preceded it in September.

Pygmy Sloths: Panama

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if her Department will provide conservation advice to the Government of Panama to help preserve the pygmy sloth. [26620]

Richard Benyon: We have not been approached to provide conservation advice to the Government of Panama to help preserve the pygmy sloth.

Radioactive Waste

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to review her Department's policy on disposal of low-level nuclear waste. [26013]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

I have no current plans to review the policy for long-term management of solid low level radioactive waste in the United Kingdom, published on 26 March 2007. It is still in the implementation phase. An important part of that is the production of strategies for nuclear LLW and non-nuclear LLW, which will guide waste producers, regulators and waste planners on implementation of the policy. The nuclear strategy was published by the NDA in August this year and we will begin consultation on the non-nuclear one shortly. Once the policy is fully implemented it may then be appropriate to review its effectiveness.

Water Charges

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* the water industry, *(b)* consumer groups and *(c)* Ofwat since 11 May 2010 on the potential to allow trickle valves to be used by water companies in response to unpaid bills. [26321]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has had no discussions with the water industry, consumer groups or Ofwat regarding the use of trickle valves. The Government's view is that trickle valves would have the same health and social risks that underpin the current ban on disconnection.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Bank

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress he has made on establishing the Big Society bank. [25859]

Mr Hurd: We are making good progress in delivering the Big Society bank and expect it to have some functions in place in the second quarter of 2011 which will enable it to start making investments in early summer.

This is dependent on a number of factors including the timing and volume of funds released by the banks and the Reclaim Fund.

Big Society

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what contribution the spending reductions identified through the comprehensive spending review process will make to the Government's objectives for the Big Society initiative. [25861]

Mr Hurd: Government action to support the Big Society consists of three strands:

Transfer of real power to communities;

Public service reform; and

Support for social action.

The comprehensive spending review, the Localism Bill, the Public Services White Paper and a White Paper on giving and social action will all help us deliver on our objectives.

Civil Servants: Conservative Party

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Walsall North of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 429W, on civil servants: Conservative party, what the annual salary range is of each of the two former Conservative party staff who have been appointed to the civil service on fixed term contracts. [25170]

Mr Maude: The two individuals referred to are no longer employed as civil servants.

Statistics: EU Action

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans *(a)* to approve proposals for or *(b)* to accept the operation of stronger EU surveillance and enforcement mechanisms in respect of UK Government statistical data. [26454]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to answer your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he plans (a) to approve proposals for or (b) to accept the operation of stronger EU surveillance and enforcement mechanisms in respect of UK government statistical data (26454).

The Office for National Statistics recognises the importance of high quality, harmonised statistics across the EU and the need to ensure minimum standards in methodology and processes associated with the European System of National Accounts.

Therefore, the UK subscribes to the Council's conclusions and welcomes the second report of the European Statistics Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) which calls upon:

Member States to accelerate, where needed, their alignment of statistical legislation with the principles of the Code of Practice and the European Statistics Regulation; to step up the implementation of other national improvement actions in order to achieve full adherence to the Code of Practice; the Commission to reinforce the binding nature of the Code of Practice by enshrining in a legal act some of the minimum standards. Full implementation of the provisions in the code needs to be accelerated by the European Statistical System, in particular to reinforce mandates for data collection and to further enhance quality.

Stronger surveillance and enforcement mechanisms will help to reinforce the confidence in European statistics, but any such measures should be appropriate, proportionate and respect the integrity and independence of UK National Statistics.

SCOTLAND

Citizens Advice

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 656W, on Citizens Advice Scotland, whether he plans to meet Citizens Advice Scotland to discuss the likely effects on it of the abolition of Consumer Focus. [25754]

Michael Moore: Scotland Office officials are meeting with Citizens Advice Scotland on 26 November when the impact on its operation of the transfer of functions from Consumer Focus Scotland will be discussed.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 656W, on Citizens Advice Scotland, what assessment his Department has made to the likely effects on Citizens Advice Scotland of the closure of Consumer Focus. [25758]

Michael Moore: The transfer of functions from Consumer Focus Scotland to Citizens Advice Scotland will be examined in detail in the months to come. We will work with Citizens Advice Scotland and the Scottish Government to ensure the transfer works effectively.

Daylight Saving Bill

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his policy is on the provisions of the Daylight Saving Bill. [25919]

Michael Moore: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has previously set out clearly the position of the Government, which includes the Scotland Office: no change to British summer time can be made without the consensus of the whole United Kingdom.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25974]

David Mundell: Between May 2010 and 12 November 2010, 171 parliamentary questions were tabled to the Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) for ordinary written answer. Of these 111 (65%) were answered within five sitting days. 157 (92%) were answered within 10 sitting days. One question tabled during this time period had not received an answer by 18 November 2010.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these average costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The estimated cost of written questions that has applied from 20 January 2010 is £154.

Economic Growth

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has commissioned research on future economic growth in Scotland. [25773]

Michael Moore: To help support the continuance of a private sector recovery, the UK Government have taken decisive action to reduce the inherited deficit—the largest in peacetime history. There are encouraging signs for the Scottish economy with strong growth in quarter two of this year. However, there is no room for complacency and the Government will continue to establish the conditions to foster sustainable and balanced economic growth. The Treasury has responsibility for economic growth forecasts for the UK.

Equality: Public Sector

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he had with the Minister for Women and Equalities on the implementation of the public sector duty on socio-economic inequalities contained in the Equality Act 2010 prior to 17 November 2010. [25826]

David Mundell: I am in regular contact with ministerial colleagues on matters of importance to Scotland, including issues related to the Equality Act 2010.

Political Appointments

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 657W, on political appointments, when his special adviser was appointed; and at what pay band that adviser is employed. [25795]

Michael Moore: My special adviser took up his appointment on 5 July 2010. He is employed on pay band 2.

JUSTICE

Departmental Public Expenditure

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what capital projects which were *(a)* being planned and *(b)* under way in April 2010 are estimated to cost over £10 million. [22997]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following list represents projects *(a)* planned and *(b)* under way in April 2010. Our interpretation of projects under way is those projects greater than £10 million which have the approval of the Treasury. The authority in place at the time allowed the Ministry to commit to capital projects up to a value not exceeding £70 million per project. Within the Ministry's authority of £70 million, the projects in the planned list are referred to as under way, since the Treasury authority allows this.

Some projects are greater than £70 million, and required Treasury approval. Expenditure may have been incurred on these projects, although the cases were under referral to the Treasury and therefore within the definition above were not under way. These are marked.

Shared Services programme (unified HR and financial system for MoJ planned and under way)

DISC infrastructure renewal (unified IT platform for courts and tribunals planned and under way)

Estates Transformation Programme (three strands which include: (a) new HQ for NOMS forecast for 2010-11 over £10 million; (b) rationalise the number of HQ buildings, and (c) rationalise regional estates, planned for SR10, over £10 million and under way.)

NOMIS (National Offender Management Information System Programme. Prison NOMIS completed, the remainder programme planned, the case was with HMT for approval)

OMNI (Offender Management National Infrastructure project to support NOMIS planned and the case was with HMT for approval)

OESS (Offender Employment Skills Services, planned, under way and less than £10 million in 2010-11, future SR10 period expenditure greater than £10 million)

QUIP (Quantum Infrastructure Programme to support NOMS business needs, planned and under way).

LSC IT Integrated Delivery Programme (planned and under way. Less than £10 million in 2010-11 but over £10 million in SR07)

Westminster magistrates courts (planned and under way)

Birmingham magistrates courts (land purchased, project planning completed, approval awaited by HMT, but now deferred under emergency budget, not under way)

Newport (planned and under way although timing of the project to be confirmed)

Camberwell magistrates courts (planned and underway although timing of the project to be confirmed)

Sunderland justice centre (planned for the next SR period—now deferred, approval required by HMT, not under way)

Aylesbury Crown court (planned and under way although timing of the project to be confirmed)

Snaresbrook Crown court (planned and under way although timing of the project to be confirmed)

West Bromwich and Wolverhampton law courts (planned for the next SR now deferred, HMT approval required, not under way)

Chelmsford and Colchester magistrates courts (planned and under way April 2010)

Woolwich Crown court (project planned and under way)

Greenwich magistrates court (planned and under way although timing of the project to be confirmed)

Inner London Crown court (to be confirmed, not underway HMT approval required)

Camberwell magistrates courts (planned and under way although timing of the project to be confirmed)

Liverpool magistrates court (planned off-balance sheet scheme, contract negotiations commenced, to be confirmed, not under way HMT approval required)

Bolton Crown and magistrates court (planned off balance sheet scheme, to be confirmed, not under way HMT approval required)

Salford county and magistrates court (planned off balance sheet scheme, to be confirmed, not under way HMT approval required)

SUPS (courts business critical system replacements service upgrade project under £10 million in 2010-11, total over £10 million, planned and under way)

MCOBS (magistrates courts operational business systems upgrades to LIBRA and Welsh Language elements (planned and under way, less than £10 million in 2010-11, scheme over £10 million in SR07)

DARTS (digital audio recording transcriptions and storage, replacement of obsolete audio equipment in Crown and combined courts, planned and under way)

New prison land purchases (expenditure in SR07 and SR10, planned and under way)

The first three of five new prisons (1,500 place PFI units planned in SR10 and authorised by HMT and the major programmes review group therefore under way)

Wetherby YOI (planned and under way)

Parc prison (planned and under way, completed October 2010)

Belmarsh West prison (PFI unit planned and under way 2010)

Isis prison (planned and under way completed July)

Maghull prison (planned and under way PFI unit)

Moorland prison (planned and under way due to complete October 2011)

Peterborough prison (planned now deferred)

(The) Mount prison (planned now deferred)

Featherstone prison (planned and under way)

Glen Parva YOI, (planned in April 2010, not under way, requires HMT approval, expenditure into SR10 subject to emergency budget reductions and now cancelled)

Cookham Wood YOI (under way, planned for SR10 and under review)

Huntercombe YOI (under way, planned for SR10 and under review)

In addition there were six prison maintenance projects planned and under way over £10 million; Warren Hill, Acklington, Erlestoke, Stocken, Featherstone, and Lewes.

There were also two prison capital maintenance projects planned over £10 million but under review: Belmarsh and Stocken.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an assessment of the merits of bringing forward proposals to apply the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to *(a)* the National Union of Students, *(b)* the Local Government Association and *(c)* other bodies in receipt of funding from the public purse. [25889]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are considering a range of options to increase transparency, including extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to additional public authorities. The Government will announce their intentions in due course.

Juries

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were summoned for jury service in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [26566]

Mr Djanogly: There were 396,631 summons issued for jury service in 2009. Annual statistics on jury summons are published by the Ministry of Justice in the annual command paper "Judicial and Court Statistics". The most recent edition, presenting statistics for 2009, was published in September 2010.

National Probation Service: Manpower

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation service employees of each grade there were in probation areas on 31 December *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009; and if he will make a statement. [26594][1]

Mr Blunt: The staff in post figures for the probation service by job group at 31 December 2006-2009 are shown in the following table.

The table shows that there was an overall decrease in staff in post over the period of 1,339.26 FTE (down 6.3%).

Job group	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Area/District Manager	174.39	185.60	198.74	160.78
Assistant Chief Officer	306.50	300.68	269.38	281.66
Chief Officer	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00
Deputy Chief Officer	80.35	72.17	53.50	42.81
Middle Manager	1,616.55	1,596.22	1,799.58	1,716.61
Other operational staff	618.19	615.76	711.82	692.14
Other staff	175.12	114.57	191.84	234.08
Practice Development Assessor	192.35	171.89	174.61	104.16
Probation Officer	5,398.88	5,368.16	5,363.77	5,318.87
Probation Services Officer	6,326.01	6,060.30	5,609.96	5,583.13
Psychologist	27.50	17.20	20.04	15.02
Senior practitioner	286.77	258.05	220.02	183.08
Support staff—administration	4,564.31	4,494.75	4,643.23	4,342.34

---

[1] *[Official Report, 21 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 5-7MC.]*

Job group	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Support staff — other	251.27	297.54	749.43	728.33
Trainee Probation Officer	1,134.09	1,138.00	903.04	402.90
Treatment Manager	176.70	161.47	186.71	177.99
Not recorded	0.00	0.00	2.00	5.82
Sum	21,370.98	20,894.36	21,139.67	20,031.72

Payment and Enforcement Centre: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Payment and Enforcement Centre in Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [26456]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service continually evaluates the performance of its business units. The Central Payments and Enforcement Centre in Liverpool has achieved a year-to-date payment rate of 91.5% against a target of 85%.

Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* operators and *(b)* financiers of prisons operated under the private finance initiative (PFI) to renegotiate (i) costs and (ii) contract specifications over the remaining period of each PFI contract; what the outcomes were of such discussions in respect of each such prison; and if he will make a statement. [25498]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Minister for the Cabinet Office has been leading a programme of negotiation with the Government's top suppliers. This work was identified as a key element of the package of measures designed to deliver £6.2 billion of savings during 2010-11, and involves discussions across the portfolio of contracts each supplier holds with central Government. These discussions have progressed well and did financially benefit the MoJ. However, the specific details of these discussions are the subject of memorandum of understanding between the Cabinet Office and the suppliers which was completed in commercial confidential and can not be divulged.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has allocated to drug treatment services in prisons for each year of the spending review period. [26460]

Mr Blunt: We are not yet able to confirm what the future funding levels for drug recovery services for prisoners will be. We are working with the Department of Health to assess the impact of the spending review settlement and what this will mean for the delivery of health care interventions and services in prison, including how we continue to drive efficiencies to achieve better treatment results.

Reoffenders

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders who were treated for drug addiction while in prison in each of the last five years have reoffended; and how many of those offenders were classified as having been successfully treated. [26457]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold data on the reoffending of offenders treated for drug addiction in prison.

A survey of 1,435 adult prisoners sentenced to between one month and four years in England and Wales in 2005-06 showed that 62% of offenders who had used drugs in the month before prison were reconvicted within a year of release. We cannot verify how many of the drug users underwent treatment for addiction when in prison. However, international reviews have concluded that, on balance, drug treatment reduces reoffending.

Secure Training Centres

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Youth Justice Board has had with the (i) operators and (ii) financiers of secure training centres operated under the private finance initiative (PFI) to renegotiate (A) costs and (B) contract specifications over the remaining period of each PFI contract; what the outcomes were of such discussions in respect of each such secure training centre; and if he will make a statement. [25499]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Minister for the Cabinet Office has been leading a programme of negotiation with the Government's top suppliers. This work was identified as a key element of the package of measures designed to deliver £6.2 billion of savings during 2010-11, and involves discussions across the portfolio of contracts each supplier holds with central Government. The specific details of these discussions are the subject of memorandum of understanding between the Cabinet Office and the suppliers which was completed in commercial confidence and can not be divulged.

In addition the Youth Justice Board is engaging in ongoing discussions with all providers of secure accommodation and associated services it commissions, to ensure they provide the best possible services for young people while ensuring value for money.

Shoplifting: Reoffenders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the rate of reoffending among those convicted of offences related to shoplifting. [26630]

Mr Blunt: The one year reconviction rate for adults convicted of offences related to shoplifting was 78.3% for the 2008 cohort. The cohort includes adult offenders discharged from custody or commencing a court order between January and March of 2008. This is the latest available published data.

More information on the reoffending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/
reoffendingofadults.htm

HOME DEPARTMENT

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on her proposal to incorporate the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre in the new National Crime Agency. [24645]

Mrs May *[holding answer 17 November 2010]:* I have received a number of representations on the proposals to incorporate the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) into the National Crime Agency (NCA). I will announce the Government's decision on the functions of the NCA in due course.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to her Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25943]

James Brokenshire: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

From May 2010 until 31 October 2010, the Home Office responded to 118 out of 353 (33.4%) questions for answer on a named day before or on that day.

At the time the House rose on 18 November 2010, 24 questions for answer on a named day, tabled prior to 12 November 2010, had not yet been answered.

It is not possible to make an estimate of the average cost to the Department of answering questions for answer on a named day. However, HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions. Their estimated average cost for written questions (as of 20 January 2010) is £154. This estimation does not differentiate between the types of written questions. Home Office officials are advised not to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £800 for drafting each question.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to her Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25944]

James Brokenshire: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

From May 2010 until 31 October 2010, the Home Office responded to 677 out of 975 (69.4%) questions for ordinary written answer within seven working days and 896 out of 975 (91.2%) questions for ordinary written answer within 14 working days.

At the time the House rose on 18 November 2010, 34 questions for ordinary written answer, tabled prior to 12 November 2010, had not yet been answered.

It is not possible to make an estimate of the average cost to the Department of answering an ordinary written question. However, HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions

Their estimated average cost for written questions (as of 20 January 2010) is £154. This estimation does not differentiate between the types of written questions. Home Office officials are advised not to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £800 for drafting each question.

Domestic Violence: EU Action

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to include the issue of domestic violence against older women in the EU strategy for combating violence against women; and if she will make a statement. [26132]

Lynne Featherstone: The EU strategy to combat violence against women and girls has not yet been issued so we are unable to comment on the content. However our understanding is that the strategy will cover all forms of violence against all women and girls and we will therefore work to ensure that the text reflects those aims.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision she plans to ensure foreign nationals from outside the EU coming to the UK to learn English in language training schools are not affected by the Government's measures to reduce the level of net immigration. [26356]

Damian Green: English language students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) are permitted to come to the UK to study English under both tier 4, the student tier of the points based system, and also through the student visitor route. As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced in her statement to Parliament of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 169-186, the Government will shortly launch a public consultation on students which will be an opportunity to consider further the position of English language students.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the legislative framework in respect of human trafficking. [26588]

Damian Green: The Government keep under constant review the legislative framework on human trafficking.

The Government are committed to tackling this heinous crime and our legislation is compliant with both the Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings.

Members: Correspondence

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to write to the right hon. Member for Morley and Outwood in response to the operational questions raised during her statement to the House on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 635, on the aviation security incident. [22747]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 November 2010]:* I refer the right hon. Gentlemen to my letter to him of 11 November 2010, a copy of which I will place in the Library.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates since her appointment she has met *(a)* the Mayor of London, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and *(c)* the Minister for the Olympics to discuss security issues for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. [23190]

Mrs May *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* I met the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt) on 12 July to discuss the safety and security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. My noble Friend, the Minister of State for Security and Counter-Terrorism and I regularly meet the Mayor of London, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media Sport and the Olympics and the Minister of State for the Olympics including through the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Home Affairs (Olympic and Paralympic Games) at which security issues are regularly discussed.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the value for money of the £1,500 payments made to foreign prisoners who agree to leave the country. [25582]

Damian Green *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* The facilitated return scheme (FRS) is a cost-effective means to facilitate quick returns of foreign national prisoners who chose not to exercise their appeal rights.

The chief executive of UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, wrote in detail about the facilitated return scheme and the savings generated to the public purse in her letter to the Home Affairs Committee of February 2010. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

The facilitated return scheme accounted for approximately 30% of the 5,530 foreign national prisoner removals from the UK in 2009, and for around 50% of the 2425 foreign national prisoner removals in quarters 1 and 2 of 2010.

Due to the current economic situation it has been decided to reduce the value of assistance offered under FRS and bring the scheme in line with other assisted voluntary return programmes. Although the impact of the changes is unknown we anticipate that it will continue to deliver significant foreign national prisoner removals and offer good value for money to the taxpayer.

The financial assistance in the country to which the individual returns is a low-cost option when compared against post-release support in this country. There is a saving to the UK Border Agency in terms of caseworking costs and potential transfer to and detention in an Immigration Removal Centre, at a cost of £110 per night, if deportation cannot take place immediately at the end of an individual's sentence. The scheme offers an incentive for foreign national prisoners to comply with the travel documentation process, and to leave the UK before the opportunity arises to frustrate removal with various legal barriers. FRS not only saves money but also keeps our streets safer.

UK Human Trafficking Centre

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed by the UK Human Trafficking Centre. [25729]

Damian Green: Since 1 April 2010, the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) has been an integral part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). As of end October 2010, there were 34 staff working for the UKHTC, of whom 23 are directly employed SOCA officers and 11 are seconded officers. There are also staff throughout SOCA who undertake activity against organised immigration crime, including human trafficking, as part of other duties.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will assess the effects on the Government's constitutional reform programme of the recent proposed increase in the number of Members of the House of Lords. [26360]

Mr Harper: The new appointments announced on 19 November are consistent with the coalition programme. The programme sets out the objective of creating a second chamber that is reflective of the share of the vote secured by the political parties in the last general election.

The cross-party Committee on House of Lords reform is considering proposals for a wholly or mainly elected second chamber. The Government will publish a draft bill early next year.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward legislation in the current Parliament to reduce the number of Ministers in the *(a)* House of Commons and *(b)* House of Lords with effect from the start of the next Parliament. [26362]

Mr Harper: I refer my hon. Friend to the response given to him by the Deputy Leader of the House at Committee stage of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 130.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Minister for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to the Government Equalities Office of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25947]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

From May 2010 until 31 October 2010, the Government Equalities Office responded to 13 out of 22 (59%) questions for answer on a named day before or on that day.

At the time the House rose on 18 November 2010, one question for answer on a named day, tabled prior to 12 November 2010, had not yet been answered.

It is not possible to make an estimate of the average cost to the Department of answering questions for answer on a named day. However, HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions. Their estimated average cost for written questions (as of 20 January 2010) is £154. This estimation does not differentiate between the types of written questions. Government Equalities Office officials are advised not to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £800 for drafting each question.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Minister for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to the Government Equalities Office of answering a question for ordinary answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25948]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

From May 2010 until 31 October 2010, the Government Equalities Office responded to 38 out of 60 (63.3%) questions for ordinary written answer within seven working days and 56 out of 60 (93.3%) questions for ordinary written answer within 14 working days.

At the time the House rose on 18 November 2010, 12 questions for ordinary written answer, tabled prior to 12 November 2010, had not yet been answered.

It is not possible to make an estimate of the average cost to the Department of answering an ordinary written question. However, HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions. Their estimated average cost for written questions (as of 20 January 2010) is £154. This estimation does not differentiate between the types of written questions. Government Equalities Office officials are advised not to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £800 for drafting each question.

Equality Act 2010

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what legal advice she sought from the Attorney-General on her decision not to implement Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010. [26444]

Lynne Featherstone: The advice of the Attorney-General was not sought on this issue.

Government Equalities Office: Expenditure

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many events the Government Equalities Office plans to hold in 2010-11; what estimate she has made of the cost under each budget heading of each such event; and how many staff will be involved in each such event. [24201]

Lynne Featherstone: From 12 November 2010 the following events have been planned by the Government Equalities Office to take place in 2010-11.

On 17 November the Minister for Women and Equalities gave a major speech to key partners on equality setting out the Government's new approach to equality and fairness. We estimate the cost of this event at about £700 which covers the cost of the venue and audio equipment. Three GEO staff members were involved in its organisation.

On 22 November GEO organised a consultation event with women's organisations from across the UK to discuss key issues relating to the UK's seventh convention on the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW) periodic report, which is due to be submitted to the United Nations' CEDAW Committee in May 2011. We estimate the cost of this event to cost £226 and two members of staff will be involved.

On 29 November, 8 and 9 of December we are organising three informal consultation roundtables to seek the views of women's organisations on the Government's new approach to engaging with women. This follows the abolition of the Women's National Commission. We estimate each event will cost about £320.00, with the involvement of two members of staff for each event.

On 6 December we are holding a summit to seek the views from the transgender community on the content of the first Government Strategy for Transgender Equality. We estimate the event will cost a maximum £1,000 and two members of staff will be involved.

Women's National Commission

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource costs of the decision to abolish the Women's National Commission. [26133]

Lynne Featherstone: We announced the outcome of the cross-Government review of all public bodies on 14 October. The review was conducted in order to deliver our commitment, as set out in the coalition agreement, to reduce the cost and number of quangos. As part of that review, it has been decided that the Women's National Commission will be closed down at the end of this year (2010) and its core functions brought into the Government Equalities Office (GEO).

A new approach to engaging with women in the UK will be developed and the GEO estimates that:

(a) set-up costs will be in the region of £239,000;

(b) operating costs thereafter are expected to be c£188,000.

This would mean that after set-up costs, there would be savings in the region of £500,000 on annual operating costs.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 29 November 2010

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what progress has been made on the reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and if she will make a statement. [27242]

Lynne Featherstone: We intend to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission to focus it on its core regulatory and human rights functions, and provide better value for taxpayers' money. Our plans for doing this include legislative proposals which we are preparing in the context of the Public Bodies Bill, currently in the other House. We intend to consult on our proposals early next year.

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce: Expenditure

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 81-82W, on ethnic minorities, who the members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Task Force have been in each year since it was established. [27470]

Lynne Featherstone: The cross-party Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Women Councillors Task Force consisted of 16 current and former councillors representing all the main political parties and all the regions in England, in addition to Wales and Scotland. The taskforce was set up in May 2008 until July 2009 and membership of the group did not change over this period. The taskforce members were as follows:

Chair

Baroness Uddin

London

Councillor Lurline Champagnie (Harrow)—Conservative

Councillor Maya de Souza (Camden)—Green

Councillor Meral Ece (Islington)—Liberal Democrat

Councillor Dr Anwara Ali (Tower Hamlets)—Labour

Councillor Lorna Campbell (Lambeth)—Labour

South-east

Councillor Humaira Khan(Windsor and Maidenhead)—Liberal Democrat

Councillor Mimi Harker (Chiltern District)—Conservative

South-west

Carol Francis(Former Cllr, Gloucester)—Labour

East of England

Councillor Sherma Batson (Stevenage and Hertfordshire)—Labour

East midlands

Councillor Manjula Sood (Leicester City)—Labour

West midlands

Councillor Salma Yaqoob(Birmingham City)—Respect

Yorkshire and Humberside

Councillor Svetlana Rodgers—Liberal Democrat

North-west

Councillor Mia Jones (Chester City)—Liberal Democrat

North-east

Thea Khamis (former councillor Derwentside)—Labour

Wales

Councillor Yvonne Jardine (Swansea)—Labour

Scotland

Neelam Bakshi (former councillor)—Labour.

Note:

This information is in the public domain through the BAME Women Councillors Taskforce Report. To find further information please click the following link for the full Report:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Task%20Force%20Report%20Oct%202009.pdf

Equal Pay: Gender

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when she expects the gender pay gap to be closed. [18543]

Lynne Featherstone: In 2009, the gap between full-time men's and women's median earnings was 12.2% rising to 22% when comparing median earnings for all men and women. The Government do not produce a forecast of the gender pay gap and has made no assessment as to when the gap will close. The Government are committed to tackling the gender pay gap and is taking a range of measures to improve women's position in the labour market including making pay secrecy clauses unenforceable, extending the right to request flexible working to all employees, consulting on a new system of parental leave, and promoting gender equality on company boards including asking Lord Davies to fully investigate the issue.

[1] *Source:*

ONS.

Equality: Public Bodies

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will publish each representation she has received relevant to her decision not to implement section 1 of the Equality Act 2010. [25927]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have received a small amount of correspondence on this issue, as they do on most issues. As the correspondence was mostly from individuals, and not in response to a public consultation, I have no plans to publish it.

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if she will publish each representation made by the public bodies listed in section 1(3) and (4) of the Equality Act 2010 on compliance with the duty under section 1. [25928]

Lynne Featherstone: The previous Administration released information regarding their engagement with the public bodies referred to. I have received no such representations.

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she plans to bring forward proposals to repeal section 1 of the Equality Act 2010. [25929]

Lynne Featherstone: I have made clear that the Government are not implementing the duty. We are exploring opportunities to repeal it, which would require primary legislation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Irish Arms Trial: Disclosure of Information

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any papers held by his Department relating to the Irish arms crisis and subsequent trial have not yet been published. [26310]

Mr Paterson: The events in question pre-date the creation of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in 1972. The NIO does not hold any papers on the issue.

WALES

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what expenditure her Department incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27527]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by her Department; and what estimate she has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27509]

Mr David Jones: There are no EU directives pending transposition into domestic legislation by the Wales Office.

FIFA: Finance

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World cup. [27370]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

SCOTLAND

FIFA: Finance

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World cup. [27358]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not spent any money on entertainment relating to the activities of the 2010 FIFA World cup.

Post Offices

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of the post office network in Scotland. [26767]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular exchanges with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues. The Government are committed to a stable and sustainable post office network and through the Post Office Bill we will be putting the Post Office on a more secure financial footing.

Universities: Visits

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 658W, on universities: visits, on what date he plans to visit the university of Edinburgh; and how many *(a)* special advisers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* press officers he expects to accompany him on that visit. [26915]

Michael Moore: I plan to visit the university of Edinburgh early in the new year and will have the appropriate level of official support on the day.

Voluntary Organisations

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations; and what matters were discussed. [26912]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has met representatives from the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations on a number of occasions. Among the topics discussed were unemployment and welfare reform, fiscal and tax issues relating to that organisation and the wider voluntary sector.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the proposed new affordable homes to be built in the next four years he expects to be built in *(a)* Coventry, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* London; and if he will make a statement. [26342]

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to meet levels of need for social housing in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Wolverhampton South West constituency. [26647]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not forecast levels of future house building, and delivery will be determined by local housing plans. In the spending review we announced investment of over £6.5 billion in housing. This includes over £2 billion to make existing social homes decent and almost £4.5 billion investment in new affordable housing to deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes. We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, so our aspiration is to deliver as many as homes as possible through our investment and reforms. On 22 November we published our consultation document "Local decisions: a fairer future for social housing" which set out our plans for radical reform of the social housing system. We will be publishing further details on affordable rent in the new year.

The New Homes Bonus, subject to consultation, also will provide additional financial incentives for building more affordable homes.

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing were *(a)* built and *(b)* sold in (i) the North East and (ii) Redcar constituency in each year since 1997. [26963]

Andrew Stunell: Information for the north-east region and for Redcar and Cleveland local authority is provided in the following table.

The new build figures are based on the Department's affordable housing statistics which include homes built for social and intermediate rent and for low cost home ownership. Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes.

The sales of social stock are sales of dwellings owned by local authorities or registered social landlords that are sold to sitting tenants (through right to buy, right to acquire and social homebuy) and registered social landlords stock sold to non-sitting tenants through low cost home ownership products.

Sales generated within a financial year may not correspond directly to the supply of new build homes shown in the table for the same year as they may have been built in a preceding year. Shared ownership sales are counted in the figures at the point of purchase of the initial share purchased only. The figures exclude demolitions and also disposals of registered social landlord stock to the private sector.

	New build affordable homes supplied		*Sales of social stock*	
	North East	*Redcar and Cleveland*	*North East*	*Redcar and Cleveland*
1997-98	1,250	60	4,090	30
1998-99	950	10	3,400	110
1999-2000	790	80	4,650	160
2000-01	560	60	5,040	160
2001-02	820	50	5,490	180
2002-03	300	10	6,840	130
2003-04	560	30	9,830	310
2004-05	690	10	7,020	210
2005-06	930	10	4,110	190
2006-07	1,230	50	3,090	150
2007-08	820	0	1,780	100
2008-09	1,300	150	570	30
2009-10	1,990	70	450	30

Note:
The figures are rounded to the nearest 10 homes.
Sources:
New build homes from Homes & Communities Agency; Sales from local authorities (LA sales) and the Tenant Services Authority (RSL sales).

Arm's Length Management Organisations: Audit

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what processes his Department plans to put in place to *(a)* inspect, *(b)* evaluate and *(c)* audit arm's length management organisations following the abolition of the Audit Commission. [26664]

Andrew Stunell: We have abolished the Audit Commission reflecting the Government's commitment to reducing regulatory burdens on local authorities. In future it will be for local authorities to consider whether the performance of their arm's length management organisations should be evaluated by inspection.

Audit Commission

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* evidence his Department took into account and *(b)* methodology his Department used in determining its forecast of £50 million saving arising from the abolition of the Audit Commission; and if he will make a statement. [26548]

Robert Neill: As we stated in the 13 August announcement, we forecast savings of £50 million a year, having regard to the Commission's published annual reports and audited accounts, and recognising that in future councils will be able to appoint their own auditors from a more competitive and open market among audit firms.

Charities: Shops

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 30W, on charity shops, if he will consider the merits of introducing powers for local authorities to regulate the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of charity shops in their areas. [26774]

Robert Neill: The Use Classes Order is concerned with the land-use impacts of development rather than the owner or occupier of the premises. The order is intended to be a deregulatory mechanism which removes unnecessary applications from the planning system because the impacts would be minimal or similar to the pre-existing development. It is not the role of the planning system to give preference to one type of retailer over another.

As I outlined in my previous answer, charity shops deliver a public benefit to society. Singling them out for extra regulation and effectively banning them from opening would be a disproportionate and heavy-handed statist intervention.

Council Housing: Finance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish *(a)* the research referred to in paragraph 3.20 of his Department's consultation paper on reform of council housing finance and *(b)* the working papers produced as part of his Department's review of council housing finance. [26135]

Andrew Stunell: The research and working papers from the previous Government's review of council housing finance were published on my Department's website in July 2009. They are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/councilhousingconsultation

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish a draft revised Circular 8/95 on the operation of the Housing Revenue Account ring-fence. [26136]

Andrew Stunell: We intend to publish a policy document with full details of our proposals for Housing Revenue Account reform in January. This will include our policy on the operation of the ring-fence.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to allow local authorities to spend all receipts under right to buy legislation on Housing Revenue Account housing. [26137]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 197W.

Council Tax: Private Rented Housing

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private landlords in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hyndburn and *(c)* Haslingden have been required to pay council tax arrears by local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available. [26184]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* politically appointed staff in his Department have been disciplined since 8 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [26[illegible]45]

Robert Neill: Six civil servants and no politically appointed staff in the Department for Communities and Local Government have been disciplined since 8 September 2010.

Departmental Legal Costs

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal costs were incurred by his Department in the case of CALA Homes v Secretary of State. [26011]

Greg Clark: Costs are currently a matter before the courts. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 52W, to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson), on costs relating to legal issues inherited from the previous Administration.

Fire Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations there were on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many fire stations he expects there to be in 2015. [26439]

Robert Neill: Latest data are for 31 March 2010, and these show that there were 1,438 fire stations in England.

The future provision of fire stations is for individual fire and rescue authorities to determine in accordance with integrated risk management planning, with resources being allocated on the basis of the evaluation of local risk.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 88-89W, outlining how fire and rescue authorities can make savings without impacting on the quality or breadth of services offered to their communities.

Fire Services: East of England

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for future Fire Service *(a)* provision and *(b)* control centres in (i) East Anglia and (ii) Suffolk. [26477]

Robert Neill: The future provision of fire and rescue services, including prevention, protection and response measures, is for individual fire and rescue authorities to determine in accordance with integrated risk management planning, and resources being allocated on the basis of the evaluation of local risk. In this way local requirements are determined by local people according to local circumstances.

The provisional local government finance settlement for the period 2011-12 will be announced in December, as in previous years. This includes the provisional grant allocations for fire and rescue authorities in East Anglia. Fire and rescue authorities will then set their budgets taking into account the amount of grant that they will receive and the income that they can raise through council tax.

The FiReControl project, initiated by the last Government, is over-budget and behind schedule. In June this year we activated a key milestone in our contract with the main contractor, EADS (now branded Cassidian), for delivery of the FiReControl project. This required EADS to complete the main system in three control centres by mid-2011.

Because their record has not improved on delivery of the project, we informed EADS on 8 November that we consider them to be in material breach of their obligations under the contract and required them to remedy the position in 20 working days.

As with all major Government projects, FiReControl is being reviewed to ensure value-for-money for the taxpayer. We have been clear that EADS must deliver to time, cost and quality. The new Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Fire Services: North East

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations there were in *(a)* Cleveland, *(b)* County Durham and Darlington, *(c)* Northumberland and *(d)* Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service area (i) on the latest date for which figures are available and (ii) in each of the last five years; and how many new stations were built in each area in each of those years. [26786]

Robert Neill: The numbers of fire stations in Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service areas are shown in the table for the latest date for which centrally held figures are available and in each of the last five years.

Number of stations in Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear at 31 March 2006 to 2010

Fire and Rescue Authority	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Cleveland	15	15	15	15	15
County Durham & Darlington	15	15	15	15	15
Northumberland	18	18	18	18	18
Tyne & Wear	17	17	17	17	17

Source:
Annual Returns in DCLG/Chartered Institute for Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA).

Numbers of new fire stations and fire station closures were also collected for each Fire and Rescue Service until 2009. These showed no new station and no closures during 2005 to 2009 in each of these areas.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* whole-time and *(b)* retained fire fighters were employed by (i) Cleveland, (ii) County Durham and Darlington, (iii) Northumberland and (iv) Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service in the latest period for which figures are available. [26933]

Robert Neill: The numbers of *(a)* whole-time and *(b)* retained fire fighters employed by Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services for 2009-10 are shown in the table.

Whole-time and retained firefighters (headcount) employed by Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear in 2009-10

Fire and Rescue Authority	*Whole-time*	*Retained*
Cleveland	505	90
County Durham & Darlington	392	162
Northumberland	202	206
Tyne and Wear	867	20

Source:
Annual Returns to DCLG

Fires: Insurance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a recent estimate of the effect on insurance costs consequent of a fire of the time taken by firefighters to reach the scene of that fire. [26693]

Robert Neill: Estimates for the relationship between response times and property losses have been made, and these are available in the report, "Review of Fire and Rescue Service Response Times" available on the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/frsresponsetimes

Fires: North East

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deaths from fire were recorded in *(a)* Cleveland, *(b)* County Durham and Darlington, *(c)* Northumberland and *(d)* Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service area in each of the last five years. [26787]

Robert Neill: The latest statistics for deaths from fire in *(a)* Cleveland, *(b)* County Durham and Darlington, *(c)* Northumberland and *(d)* Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service area are shown in the table.

Deaths recorded in FRS areas Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear 2005-06 to 2009-10[1]

FRS area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]	*2009-10*[1]
Cleveland	3	4	3	2	5
Durham	3	5	1	5	0
Northumberland	3	5	3	5	1

Deaths recorded in FRS areas Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear 2005-06 to 2009-10[1]

FRS area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[2]*	*2009-10[1]*
Tyne and Wear	7	5	8	7	4

[1] Provisional
[2] Revised provisional
Source:
Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Databases, DCLG

Homelessness: Finance

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding he plans to allocate to the prevention of homelessness in each year of the spending review period. [26141]

Grant Shapps: We have protected homelessness grant funding, with £400 million over the next spending review period to support the most vulnerable and tackle homelessness. Preventing homelessness grant allocations to local housing authorities for 2011-12 will be announced alongside the provisional local government finance settlement in early December.

Housing Associations

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the bidding system for prospective tenants operated by housing associations; and if he will make a statement. [26343]

Andrew Stunell: Research into the longer term impacts of choice based lettings (CBL) was carried out by Heriot Watt university for the Department for Communities and Local Government and the report of the findings, "Monitoring the longer term impacts of choice based letting", was published by the Department in October 2006. The research assessed the impacts of choice based lettings across a range of issues, including tenancy sustainment, community cohesion, tenant mobility, demand for social housing and cost-effectiveness, and the report included the following findings:

> in the context of multi-ethnic areas, choice based letting tends to reduce rather than compound ethnic segregation
>
> outcomes for homeless households are largely positive, eg under choice based lettings they are more likely to be housed in high demand areas
>
> choice based lettings generates improved tenancy sustainment
>
> choice based lettings encourages applicants to think more flexibly about their housing choices
>
> choice based lettings set-up costs can be off-set by housing management efficiencies.

Housing: Construction

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had on the effect of the New Homes Bonus Scheme on areas with high numbers of empty properties in *(a)* Hyndburn constituency and *(b)* elsewhere; and what steps he is taking to bring such empty properties into use. [26173]

Grant Shapps: On 12 November the Government launched a consultation on the New Homes Bonus which includes the option of including empty homes within the scheme. The consultation is available at:

> www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/newhomesbonusconsult

This could provide local authorities with a powerful incentive to tackle empty homes as part of their overall approach to meeting housing need. There have been no discussions specifically in relation to Hyndburn but we would welcome views of all those with an interest in this consultation which ends on 24 December.

In addition we will provide £100 million for housing associations and local authorities to bring over 3,000 empty homes back into use as affordable rented housing. This will enable local authorities to tackle the most difficult properties by providing renovation works and management support.

We are also working with the Homes and Communities Agency and with "Empty Homes" (a leading charity) to help ensure that local authorities have the information and expertise they need to take enforcement action where necessary.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* private, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* registered social landlords new build housing completions there were in (i) each year from 1990 to 2009 and (ii) in 2010 to the latest date for which figures are available. [26314]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The latest annual figures showing how many new build housing completions there were in all calendar years, 1946 to 2009 are shown in live table 244 on the DCLG website. These split total house building completions by tenure, including completions by private owners, local authorities and housing associations. 'Registered social landlords' are now referred to as 'housing associations'.

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1473507.xls

More recent quarterly figures for new build completions (Q1, Q2 and Q3 in 2010) were published in live table 213 in November 2010. These quarterly figures are for England only.

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1473517.xls

Housing: Empty Property

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* England owned by local authorities are empty. [25611]

Andrew Stunell: In 2009 there were 9,300 vacant dwellings in total owned by local authorities within Greater London. In the same year in England there were in total 34,600 vacant local authority dwellings.

Figures on vacant local authority dwellings are available from the DCLG website, linked as follows. Table 611 shows numbers of local authority vacant dwellings by region, based on returns to DCLG. Figures for 2010 will be published on 30 November 2010.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

Local Government Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward the announcement of the Local Government Grant Settlement in order to give local authorities more time to prepare their budgets for the 2011-12 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [25888]

Robert Neill: We will announce our proposals for the local government finance settlement in the usual manner, giving local authorities sufficient time to set budgets, in due course.

Local Government: Regulation

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which statutory duties and requirements upon local authorities he plans to rescind. [26378]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to reducing centrally imposed barriers and burdens on local authorities such as legislation, guidance and other forms of prescription. DCLG will work with the local government sector to identify and assess these with a view to removing those which are unnecessary.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer on the regulatory burdens already removed which was given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 304-05W.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 6 September and *(b)* 20 October 2010 on MK Electrical Devices and Systems. [27258]

Andrew Stunell: A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 15 November 2010.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will provide for a simplified application form for renewal of homes in multiple occupation licences from spring 2011. [26282]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government has no current plans to revise regulations to enable a simplified application form for homes in multiple occupation licence renewals. The current regulations prescribe the minimum content required for a licence application. Local Government Regulation are providing support to local authorities through the renewal process. However, more broadly, Ministers are happy to receive representations on the potential for reducing red tape and unnecessary form-filling.

National Park Authorities

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has assessed the merits of merging national park authorities' and local authority planning departments. [27005]

Robert Neill: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs issued a consultation on the Governance Arrangements for the National Parks and the Broads Authority on 9 November, the consultation concludes on 1 February 2011 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/nationalpark-governance/index.htm

In addition, Ministers believe there is a significant scope for different local authorities to share back office functions, including planning services.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to introduce a third party right of appeal in the planning system. [26154]

Greg Clark: The Government's reforms to the planning system seek to avoid the need for appeals to the Planning Inspectorate by all parties.

Planning permission should be secured by consistency with plans rather than by development control.

The Localism Bill will confirm a new regime of neighbourhood planning to allow local residents' requirements to be set out in plans with which new developments will need to comply.

Public Houses

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department provides to public houses. [26129]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government believes that community pubs are important local assets and they, along with other institutions such as village shops and community centres, play an important role in strengthening community relationships and encouraging wider social action. The Department is currently undertaking a range of actions to support the sector.

As part of our determination to shift power to local neighbourhoods, we aim to ensure through the Localism Bill that community organisations have a fair chance to bid to take over assets and facilities that are important to them, including local pubs. As part of this, we are working with Co-operatives UK to pilot the use of community shares as a means to develop community finance. A number of community-owned pubs have already used community share issues to develop their business.

The Department is currently considering proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to prohibit the imposition of restrictive covenants on pubs when they are sold. We intend to make an announcement about this later in the year.

We are also committed to helping firms with business rates: simplifying the process and making small business rate relief automatic; introducing a more generous small business rate relief scheme for a year from October; and considering proposals to give councils powers to levy discretionary business rate discounts—which could, for example, be used to support local pubs.

Support for public houses remains a cross-Government issue and we will continue to work closely with colleagues across Whitehall to champion the place of local pubs as the social heartbeat of life in our towns and villages.

The Government are also to ban the sale of alcohol below cost price, helping protect local pubs from unfair "loss leading" by some shops. Licensing rules will be reformed to make it easier to play live music in local pubs, and the Government have already scrapped the planned 10% rise in cider duties (the so-called cider tax).

Right to Acquire Scheme

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to increase the availability of access to sharia-compliant financing to facilitate right to acquire purchases from housing associations. [26522]

Andrew Stunell: We do not wish to preclude the use of sharia-compliant finance by social tenants who wish to buy their homes under the right to acquire scheme.

However, the issues raised by such finance are complex and we have not yet found a way to both protect the rights of individuals and provide security for Government funds, under the terms of the right to acquire legislation which requires that ownership of a property passes direct from landlord to purchasing tenant.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on future levels of social housing rents; and if he will make a statement. [26341]

Grant Shapps: My Department has regular discussions at ministerial and official level with the Department for Work and Pensions. These meetings cover a broad range of topics including social housing.

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 807W, on social rented housing: construction, when and in what form more detail on the implementation of new affordable rent tenure will be published. [26373]

Grant Shapps: We are planning to publish guidance early next year on the delivery of affordable housing, jointly with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hyndburn and *(c)* Haslingden do not meet the Decent Homes standard. [26183]

Andrew Stunell: Comparable local and national statistics are available only for social housing. Landlord returns indicate that at 31 March 2010 there were 531 (10.8%) social sector non-decent homes in Hyndburn and 491 (10.7%) in Rossendale. Both these local authorities have transferred their stock. At the same time there were 410,000 (10.2%) social sector non-decent dwellings in England.

Youth Services: Expenditure

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of levels of expenditure per 1,000 people on youth services in each local authority in England in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [26896]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each local authority in England, the net current expenditure per 1,000 people on youth education services for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

TRANSPORT

BRB (Residuary): Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assets BRB (Residuary) Ltd. holds in each local authority area in Wales; and what plans he has for the disposal of such assets. [25937]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* Land owned freehold by BRB (Residuary) Ltd. is listed on the company's website at:

www.brbr.co.uk/property/property_listings

It is possible to select sites by county or unitary council area. In addition, the company holds most of the trackbed of the former railway from Crosskeys to Markham on lease.

In total BRB (Residuary) owns 389 bridges, tunnels and other structures in Wales, details of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

BRB (Residuary) is under instruction to continue its strategy to dispose of assets that have no further transport use in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department for Transport (see link).

http://www.brbr.co.uk/land_disposal

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16176]

Norman Baker: The information is as follows:

(a) Contract award values—management consultants—7 May to 30 September 2010

	Supplier	*Award value (£)*	*Organisation*
1	AECOM	130,000	DfT(c)—Rail vfm[1]
2	Amtec	99,000	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
3	Atkins	290,000	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
4	Booz & Co	59,600	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
5	Capita	64,500	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
6	Civity	113,000	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
7	DTZ	50,800	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
8	Marsh Ltd	50,000	HA
9	Mott Macdonald Ltd	43,000	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
10	Oxera	128,400	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
11	SDG/Investors in Excellence	90,000	DfT(c)—Rail vfm
	Total	1,118,300	

[1] Sir Roy McNulty's Rail Value for Money (vfm) review was established by the Secretary of State in December 2009 as an independent study to look at the cost structure of all elements of the railway sector and to identify options for improving value for money for passengers and the taxpayer. Consultants have been appointed because the use of consultants ensures a level of independence that cannot be achieved and certainly not demonstrated using in-house resources alone. In addition, the work has called for skill sets and knowledge beyond those available within the sponsoring organisations.

(b) Contract award values—IT suppliers—7 May to 30 September 2010

	Supplier	*Award value (£)*	*Organisation*
1	Amtec Consulting Plc	500,000	MCA
2	ANS Group	25,144	VCA
3	Arquiva	1,700	MCA
4	Banctec	360,000	DVLA
5	Cable & Wireless	49,000	DfT(c)
6	Computacenter	89,500	MCA/DfT(c)
7	Diagonal Consulting	5,700	MCA
8	EMC Computer Systems (UK) Ltd	1,197,126	DVLA
9	Engineering Ingeneria Informatica	502,900	MCA
10	Epic Group PLC	16,795	HA
11	Equanet	18,700	MCA
12	ESRI (UK) Ltd	9,400	MCA
13	Frontrange Ltd	15,893	DfT(c)
14	HIS Fairplay	6,500	MCA
15	IBM UK Ltd	19,300	MCA
16	Insight Ltd	153,233	MCA/DfT(c)
17	Microsoft Ltd	53,300	DfT(c)
18	Oracle	64,800	MCA
19	PC Maritime	1,400	MCA
20	Phoenix Software Ltd	5,805	DfT(c)
21	PRGX	91,276	DfT(c)
22	QAS Experian Ltd	7,000	MCA
23	Q-Max Systems Ltd	8,825	DVLA
24	Scanoptics	418,106	DVLA
25	SFW Ltd	52,870	VCA
26	SoftBox Ltd	81,486	MCA/DfT(c)
27	Telewest Business	45,000.	DfT(c)
28	The Corporate IT Forum	85,000	DfT(c)
29	Vamosa Ltd	10,000	DfT(c)
30	Vega Consulting	9,279	DfT(c)
	Total	3,905,038	

Key:
DFT(c)—Department for Transport (Centre)
DVLA—Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
HA—Highways Agency
MCA—Maritime and Coastguard Agency
VCA—Vehicle Certification Agency

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years; [23764]

(2) which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23782]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002 and information is provided from that date or the date an agency/non-departmental public body was formed, if later.

None of the seven executive agencies of the Department has spent any money from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities.

The following non-departmental public bodies have not undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants nor spent money from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities:

Cycling England
Northern Lighthouse Board
Trinity House Lighthouse Service
Renewable Fuels Agency
Directly Operated Railways
Railway Heritage Committee
British Transport Police Authority

Passenger Focus spent £10,662 in 2005-06 and £6,021 in 2006-07 on activities to influence public policy for which they engaged public affairs consultants on advice and support on parliamentary affairs, but no specific activities or lobbying were undertaken. They also spent £18,674 in 2008-09 on employing external public affairs companies for support organising fringe events at party conferences.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the post office network. [24945]

Norman Baker: The Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency (DVLA) already has a large contract with Post Office Ltd (POL). This includes the long established motor vehicle taxation services and driver licensing services.

DVLA with the central Department, has additionally recently been engaged alongside other Government Departments in the Cabinet Office sponsored meetings to review the potential for POL to provide wider counter services across Government.

Freight Facilities Grant

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the operation of the Freight Facilities Grant. [26904]

Mike Penning: No recent discussions have taken place with the Scottish Government on the operation of the Freight Facilities Grant.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for the Freight Facilities Grant. [26906]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport's capital budget (from which Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) is funded) was discussed with the Chancellor and Chief Secretary in the recent spending review.

Following the spending review settlement, we are currently considering what budgets will be available across a number of the Department's smaller programmes (including FFG).

Invalid Vehicles

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* minor injuries sustained by (i) users of mobility scooters and (ii) people hit by mobility scooters in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [25146]

Norman Baker: I have discussed this matter with my colleague, the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) and with officials as part of a wider consideration of the topic of mobility scooters.

Road casualty statistics do not currently include mobility scooters as a separate vehicle category, so we have no central data on the number of these vehicles involved in accidents although we are aware of specific incidents.

We are also aware that the number of mobility vehicles is on the increase. In 2010, the Department for Transport initiated a survey to help assess the number of mobility scooter users and the extent to which their use may have injured people. I will be considering its conclusions as part of an overall review of the laws governing the use of mobility vehicles. The results of the survey can be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221513/mobilityscoooters/attitudestowardsmobilityscooters1.pdf

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 12 October and *(b)* 10 November 2010 on a constituent, Mr Lilly. [27257]

Mike Penning: A response to the letter of 12 October 2010 was despatched on 18 November 2010. The Department for Transport has no record of the letter of 10 November 2010.

Public Transport: Disability

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to improve access to public transport for *(a)* blind people and *(b)* people with other disabilities in (i) the West Midlands, (ii) Wolverhampton South West constituency and (iii) nationally. [26286]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is committed to improving access to transport for all disabled people.

By way of improvements to physical accessibility, national deadlines ranging between 2015 and 2020 are in place for public transport vehicles to meet modern accessibility standards. In addition, I am currently considering plans for implementation of provisions in the Equality Act 2010 which aim to ensure better levels of wheelchair access to taxis both in terms of availability and assistance. I will be making an announcement in due course.

In the recent spending review, the Government also confirmed their commitment to continue to protect concessionary travel, from which many disabled people benefit.

By 2015, nine rail stations in the West Midlands will receive an accessible, step-free route as part of the Access for All programme. A further 90 stations have been offered funding for a variety of smaller scale access improvements including the installation of tactile surfaces, lighting upgrades, public address systems, signage and automatic doors. In line with the Coalition's localism agenda, it will be for local partnerships—integrated transport authorities working with local authorities and communities te identify solutions for local improvements.

Railways: Freight

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for development of rail freight services *(a)* in Stockton North constituency and *(b)* in Teesside; and what his policy is on (i) freight capacity and (ii) rail freight safety in such development. [27033]

Mrs Villiers: The development of rail freight services is commercial matter for the private sector rail freight operators. The provision of freight capacity and rail freight safety are operational matters for Network Rail. Capacity allocation and rail safety is overseen by the independent Office of Rail Regulation.

Railways: Overcrowding

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the level of overcrowding on rail routes in Yorkshire. [25530]

Mrs Villiers: The Office for Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes statistics on passengers in excess of capacity in National Rail Trends (NRT). These figures were updated in July 2010 for London commuter services, and will be published for other regional centres when this information is available.

More detailed crowding information on the requested services may be available directly from the operators at the following addresses:

Northern Rail Ltd., Northern House, 9 Rougier Street, York, YO1 6HZ.

Customer Relations, First TransPennine Express, Freepost, ADMAIL 3878, Manchester, M1 9YB.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology his Department uses to collate data on passenger overcrowding on the rail network in *(a)* London, *(b)* non-metropolitan urban areas and *(c)* metropolitan areas. [25794]

Mrs Villiers: Statistics on train crowding are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends (NRT) Yearbook, which is available in the House Library, or from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

The NRT Yearbook contains 'passengers in excess of capacity' (PiXC) statistics showing overcrowding on London commuter services. Summary statistics on crowding levels into selected regional cities will be released at a later date.

The PiXC crowding measure is derived from the number of passengers travelling in excess of capacity on all services.

The main source of data used to derive the PiXC measure is obtained from the counts carried out in the autumn of each year. These are derived from a mix of manual and automatically generated passenger counts.

Road Safety Markings Association

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent meetings he has had with representatives of the Road Safety Markings Association; and if he will make a statement. [26397]

Mike Penning: I met with representatives of the Road Safety Markings Association in my office on 14 October.

Roads: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of his Department's capital grant for road safety the proposed reduction of £17.2 million in the comprehensive spending review represents; and if he will make a statement. [22594]

Mike Penning: As part of the coalition Government's commitment to decentralising power and financial autonomy to local government and communities, the Department for Transport (DfT) is radically simplifying its funding for 2011-12, moving from 26 different grant streams to just four. This has included discontinuing the dedicated capital grant for road safety.

It is for local authorities to decide how to invest the funding support provided in the comprehensive spending review period. The planned Department for Transport funding to support local authorities' capital investments for the period is summarised in the following table. More details have been provided in an answer given to the hon. Member for Sheffield South East (Mr Betts) on 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 386-87W.

Total DfT capital funding for local authorities (excluding TfL)

	£ million
2011-12	1,554
2012-13	1,503
2013-14	1,465
2014-15	1,664

Roads: Snow and Ice

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the national road network of an increased frequency of abnormal weather conditions arising from climate change; and whether he has made an estimate of future resource requirements to ensure network resilience. [25600]

Norman Baker: The Highways Agency manages the strategic road network in England. It has used the latest scenarios from the UK Climate Projections and developed a climate change risk assessment methodology as part of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. This will enable incorporation of climate change considerations into design standards and specifications, routine maintenance, operating procedures, and the development of contingency plans; ensuring that the Highways Agency continues to operate a dynamic and resilient network.

In support of the Adaptation Strategy, the Highways Agency has developed an Adaptation Framework, designed to meet the needs of the network and to address the aims of the adaptation provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008.

The management of local roads in England is a matter for local highway authorities. It is for each authority to assess how the maintenance of their roads should take account of climate change. The Department for Transport has, in conjunction with the UK Roads Board, published "Maintaining pavements in a changing climate". This includes guidance on maintenance practices which improve the resilience of roads to climate change.

Taxis: Fuels

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has carried out research on the opportunities for use of alternative fuels in taxis; and if he will make a statement. [25918]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not carried out research which looks specifically at the opportunities for use of alternative fuels in taxis. However, the Department has commissioned work to look at biofuel deployment options across transport modes, including in the road transport sector, which is due to report in the spring.

Tintwistle Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he undertook a cost-benefit analysis of the construction of a Mottram and Tintwistle bypass prior to determining the schemes to be approved under the Investment in Highways and Local Transport programme. [22273]

Norman Baker: The Mottram and Tintwistle bypass scheme was removed from the roads programme by the previous administration in 2009. The Secretary of State's announcement to the House on 26 October and the associated document "Investment in Local Major Transport Schemes", relate only to projects in the current programme and projects submitted to the Department prior to the suspension announced in June 2010. The Mottram and Tintwistle bypass does not fall into either category and therefore was not considered in making the statement of 26 October.

Transport: Concessions

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what special grant funding for the national concessionary travel scheme he has allocated to each integrated transport authority for the purpose of its statutory duty to fund the national concessionary travel scheme in each of the last three years. [26174]

Norman Baker: Currently, the bulk of concessionary travel funding that Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) receive is provided through levies from the relevant local authorities—who receive funding via Formula Grant from Communities and Local Government. The remainder of funding is provided through special grant from the Department for Transport.

ITAs received the following special grant payments from Department for Transport in the last three years:

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total last three years*
Greater Manchester ITA	10.5	10.8	11.1	32.4
Merseyside ITA	6.5	6.7	8.0	21.2
South Yorkshire ITA	5.1	5.3	5.4	15.8
Tyne And Wear ITA	5.4	5.5	5.7	16.5
West Midlands ITA	12.4	12.6	13.0	38.0
West Yorkshire ITA	8.7	8.9	9.1	26.7
Total for all ITAs	48.6	49.7	52.3	—

Transport: Local Enterprise Partnerships

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to delegate responsibility for regional transport strategy to local enterprise partnerships. [25006]

Norman Baker: Local enterprise partnerships will be free to bring forward their own transport strategies if they so wish.

JUSTICE

Community Orders: Finance

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on the future viability of *(a)* sex offender treatment programmes, *(b)* thinking skills programmes, *(c)* unpaid work orders, *(d)* supervision orders, *(e)* domestic violence interventions and *(f)* other sentencing options for lower tier offenders in the community. [26246]

Mr Blunt: Internal resource allocations for the spending review 2010 period have not yet been decided, but we have made it clear that we expect savings to be achieved in large part through improvements in efficiency and by stream-lining administration. We will publish a Green Paper before the end of the year, setting out our plans to reform sentencing options and rehabilitate offenders more effectively, which we expect will have a positive impact on the viability of all the disposals and programmes available.

Coroners

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance he plans to issue to local authorities on enforcement of new legislative provision in respect of coroners; [26446]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of managing the coroner' service in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [26447]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for coroner law and policy only. The financial costs of the coronial service fall to the individual relevant authorities.

We aim to issue improved guidance on important procedures such as the conduct of post-mortem examinations, while supporting the local management and delivery of the service. We will continue to work collaboratively with coroners, their staff, local government, police authorities and the senior judiciary to deliver service improvements.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to provide additional assistance to those coroners who report a lack of adequate facilities in 2010-11; and when he plans to bring into force those provisions in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 which relate to such facilities. [26816]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for coroner law and policy, but no operational role in the service delivered by coroners. Local authorities (and, in some districts, police authorities) are responsible for funding and staffing the coroner service.

My officials will continue to work with local and police authorities, and the Coroners' Society to ensure that coroners have access to appropriate facilities to hold inquests as part of their investigations into sudden and unexpected death.

In my statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, I set out our proposals for taking forward coronial reform. We are reviewing what provisions within the 2009 Act we may commence, and this will include provisions which relate to staff and accommodation.

Dog Fouling

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many individuals were prosecuted for the offence of dog fouling in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years; [26516]

(2) how many individuals were given a fixed penalty fine for the offence of dog fouling in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [26517]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in England for offences under section 3 of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, from 2005 to 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Figures are presented for police force area in England as data held on the Ministry of Justice's Court Proceedings Database are not available at local authority area level.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) advise that records on fixed penalty fines for the offence of dog fouling are not held centrally and would need to be obtained from each separate local authority.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 3 of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, by police force area, England, 2005-09[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	11	11	5	7	5
Bedfordshire	2	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	3	1	1
Cheshire	5	1	3	2	1
Cleveland	25	18	43	29	53
Cumbria	13	17	12	9	12
Derbyshire	13	14	11	9	6
Devon and Cornwall	—	3	7	8	7
Dorset	—	4	2	1	4
Durham	—	—	3	16	38
Essex	12	2	1	4	4
Gloucestershire	1	—	1	3	1
Greater Manchester	132	92	59	19	26
Hampshire	1	3	1	20	8
Hertfordshire	1	1	2	—	—
Humberside	—	—	2	—	1
Kent	—	—	1	16	24
Lancashire	37	19	27	27	59
Leicestershire	1	2	2	2	3
Lincolnshire	9	6	3	3	4
Merseyside	27	20	11	106	195
Metropolitan Police	47	49	25	48	29

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 3 of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, by police force area, England, 2005-09[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Norfolk	—	3	—	—	1
North Yorkshire	3	5	7	3	4
Northamptonshire	5	2	1	6	6
Northumbria	48	59	57	50	61
Nottinghamshire	2	1	1	2	10
South Yorkshire	18	17	23	13	4
Staffordshire	—	—	—	3	1
Suffolk	3	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	1	—	1
Sussex	—	1	1	2	15
Thames Valley	2	—	—	1	4
Warwickshire	1	1	1	—	2
West Mercia	—	1	1	1	1
West Midlands	2	10	2	4	8
West Yorkshire	7	6	4	14	26
Total	428	368	323	429	625

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Only those police force areas are shown where data have been reported.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Land Registry

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what terms of reference have been set for the feasibility study on the future of the Land Registry; and if he will make a statement. [27140]

Mr Djanogly: The feasibility study is tasked with identifying the opportunities for private sector involvement in the Land Registry.

The project is expected to deliver a written study that will contain sufficient detail to enable Ministers to make a decision on the future direction of Land Registry in early 2011, so that any financial benefits may be realised within the 2010 spending review period.

The completed study should fully articulate all of the potential benefits, costs, risks, issues and legislative requirements that may follow from the options for private sector involvement. The work will identify the steps required and time frames for the execution of the necessary transition for each of the future business model options explored and any alignment or conflict with wider government initiatives.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many organisations in each constituency have legal aid contracts *(a)* in total, *(b)* for criminal work only, *(c)* for civil work only and *(d)* for criminal and civil work. [26482]

Mr Djanogly: I understand that the Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not hold this information in the format requested.

The LSC has contracts with 1,750 solicitors firms for criminal legal aid work in England and Wales. Some of these firms provide services in a number of different locations. I have placed in the Library a table showing the number of criminal legal aid providers in each local authority area in England and Wales.

It is not possible to answer this question in full in respect of civil legal aid contracts at this time. Following the tender process undertaken earlier in the year, the LSC has awarded contracts for all civil categories of law except Family (and Family with Housing) that came into effect on 15 November 2010. The LSC is currently finalising the contract documentation, after which time the final number of organisations delivering services under these contracts will be available by procurement area and access point. It is currently estimated that there will be in the region of a thousand contracts in total for non-family civil legal aid, some of which will be with organisations with multiple locations and/or for multiple categories of law. I will write to you once the final information is available.

Tenders for Family and Family with Housing services were set aside following judicial review proceedings by the Law Society. At the end of financial year 2009-10, there were 2,434 offices with family legal aid contracts and numbers of family providers will be broadly consistent with this as family providers continue to operate under the Unified Contract (Civil) which was introduced on 1 April 2007 and has been extended until 30 November 2011.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) financial and (ii) social effects of withdrawing the availability of legal aid for cases relating to education provision. [26615]

Mr Djanogly: The Department did not commission research, or carry out a formal evaluation of research. Although an impact assessment was published with the consultation paper on 15 November and can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effects of the implementation of his proposals for the future of *(a)* legal aid and *(b)* conditional fee agreements on the cost to the public purse of very high cost cases in the spending review period. [26616]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice published initial Impact Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments alongside the consultation papers "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" and "Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Funding and Costs: Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations" which were published on 15 November 2010, available at:

www.justice.gov.uk

The proposals on which we are consulting, which cover every aspect of legal aid, including scope, eligibility, remuneration and very high cost cases, will radically reform the system. They will aim to tackle the spread of expensive and unnecessary litigation into everyday society at taxpayers' expense. The Government accept Lord Justice Jackson's assessment that the costs of civil litigation are too high and that the current arrangements impact disproportionately on defendants.

Final impact assessments will be published alongside the Government response to both consultations next spring.

Legal Aid Scheme: Contracts

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money from the public purse the Learning and Skills Council has spent on legal costs in respect of tendering contracts for legal aid since May 2010. [26699]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has operational responsibility for tendering contracts for legal aid.

The LSC has an in-house legal team and it also instructs counsel where necessary on particular cases. The LSC in-house lawyers do not have a computerised time recording system and where no claim for costs is to be made by the LSC, a breakdown of the time spent by the in-house legal team has not been prepared. In addition, the LSC has not yet paid for all of the work done by counsel and so therefore does not currently hold the information requested.

Legal Aid Scheme: North West

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* asylum and *(b)* non-asylum matter starts were allocated to each provider in each access area in the North West procurement area for the 2010 contract for such matter starts. [26427]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is currently finalising the contract documentation after which time the final numbers of organisations delivering services under the 2010 Standard Civil Contract, and the volume of work they will be delivering, will be available.

I will write to the hon. Member when the information has been published on the LSC website.

National Offender Management Service: Secondment

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were on secondment to the National Offender Management Service on the latest date for which figures are available. [26426]

Mr Blunt: There is no reliable information centrally available on the number of staff on secondment into the National Offender Management Service. To obtain the information would entail contacting a large number of individual units, which would entail disproportionate cost.

Office of the Public Guardian: Lost Property

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 357W, on the Office of the Public Guardian, what estimate he has made of the *(a)* frequency and *(b)* cost to the public purse of the loss of documents by the Office of the Public Guardian in the last 12 months. [26815]

Mr Djanogly: As per my answer on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 357W, the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is not able to collate statistics in respect of numbers of lost original documents without reference to individual cases. Thus, estimates as to frequency would be no more than speculative.

As with any process reliant on the submission of paper material, the loss of original documents will, unfortunately, occur on occasion. The OPG takes information security very seriously and focuses consistently on minimising the potential risk.

However where original documents are lost, the cost to be borne is minimal. The OPG scans all applications on receipt and therefore where an original copy is misplaced, an office copy of the instrument can be provided. Where the original is subsequently identified, measures are in place to ensure it is then forwarded to the applicant. Office copies are afforded the same weight in law as the original. Costs are therefore limited to the resource to produce and issue any replacement material.

Prisoners

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to ensure that prisoners in working prisons are *(a)* placed close to their families and *(b)* offered skills training relating to industries that are prevalent in that area; and if he will make a statement. [26242]

Mr Blunt: The Government have made clear their intention to make prisons places of hard work and discipline. We will be publishing our proposals for consultation in the forthcoming Sentencing and Rehabilitation Green Paper. As we develop our proposals we will need to consider how best to achieve the working prison within the confines of the prison estate and how best to work with the private and voluntary sectors to provide work and training opportunities for prisoners.

Prisoners' Release

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of existing housing stock to accommodate the release of 3,000 prisoners as part of his Department's structural reform plan; and if he will make a statement; [26243]

(2) with reference to his Department's structural reform plan for the reintroduction of prisoners into the community, how such reintroduction will be supervised; and by what mechanism it will contribute to a reduction in reoffending rates. [26244]

Mr Blunt: No measures will be introduced to release existing prisoners early. The Government will publish a Green Paper in December setting out proposals for more effective sentencing policies and rehabilitation including action on drugs, alcohol, mental health employment and housing. We expect the prison population to fall by around 3,000 from the current level as a result of these policies. We will consider the provision of departmental resources in the light of consultation responses to our proposals.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 165, if he will publish each item of correspondence between him and Scottish Ministers on prisoners' voting rights. [27172]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Probation

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of the accredited programmes panel for programmes run by the probation service. [26423]

Mr Blunt: The Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) is a non-statutory body that sits within the Justice Policy Group. Its main role is to accredit programmes that have been designed for offenders both in prisons and the community.

There are currently no plans to change the remit of CSAP or the way in which programmes are accredited. However, we will be keeping this area of work under review in light of the Green Paper due to be published this autumn.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who were given a determinate sentence in each year since 2005 did not take part in offender programmes while in prison. [26424]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service delivers a broad range of interventions to address the particular risks and needs of offenders. Information on all the activities undertaken by individual prisoners is not centrally collated and details on those who did not take part in offender programmes could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by analysing offender files and local data systems, validating the information and collating in a common format. Whether a prisoner needs to participate in a particular programme will depend on assessment locally.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of appointing a director of probation for England and Wales. [26425]

Mr Blunt: As probation trusts are independent, arm's length bodies, operating under contract with the Secretary of State, a director of probation could not perform the same functions as under the earlier, centralised arrangements.

However, we recognise that probation trusts need a consistent point of reference and representation within the National Offender Management Service. The new structure we are putting in place from April 2011 will include a Director of Probation and Contracted Services, who will be responsible not only for holding trusts to account against their contracts, but also for ensuring they have the support they need to be effective public sector providers.

Reoffenders

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to reduce reoffending rates among *(a)* Tier 1 and *(b)* Tier 2 offenders; and if he will make a statement. [26245]

Mr Blunt: All offenders on community orders are managed according to their assessed risks and offending related needs in order to reduce their likelihood of reoffending. Individual sentence plans are drawn up for each offender to focus on objectives to reduce their risk of reoffending and causing harm.

The forthcoming Green Paper will include details of the Government's plans to reform sentencing and introduce new measures to rehabilitate offenders.

Roads: Accidents

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were prosecuted for failing to report injuries to or killing a dog in a road traffic incident in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [26520]

Mr Blunt: Under section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 it is an offence to fail to stop, or report within 24 hours, an accident where personal injury or damage is caused. Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice's Court Proceedings database do not include the circumstances of each case other than those specified in the statute and it is not possible to identify details of these offences which include injuries or death to a dog.

Squatting

David Rutley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to assist property owners to remove squatters occupying their property; and if he will make a statement. [26368]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 835W, to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Christopher Pincher).

We are reviewing with other Government Departments whether the law in relation to squatting and the way it is enforced, should be strengthened, but we have yet to reach a conclusion.

Victim Support Schemes

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to establish procedures to support victims of white collar crime. [26248]

Mr Blunt: The Government take white collar crime as seriously as other crime. Those victims can access support both inside and outside court. In addition, the creation of a new Economic Crime Agency, as outlined in the coalition agreement, will be a significant step forward in helping to better tackle economic crime.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of offences relating to the sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18 years in each of the last five years; [26029]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the offence of being drunk and disorderly in each of the last five years; [26030]

(3) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of offences related to purchasing alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years in each of the last five years; [26031]

(4) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the sale of alcohol to a drunk person under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003 in each year since the implementation of that Act. [26032]

James Brokenshire: Data showing the number of cautions, prosecutions and convictions for various alcohol offences from 2005-09 are provided in the table which will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Data for the offence of sale of alcohol to a drunk person are available from 2004, there was one caution for the offence during this year.

Asylum: Deportation

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of deporting unsuccessful asylum seekers in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [26602]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) seek to remove all those with no legal basis to be in the UK, this includes foreign national prisoners, illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers.

It is not possible to provide a comprehensive figure for the actual cost of removals and deportations of failed asylum seekers because there is no specific budget dedicated solely to their removal.

We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

However the cost of public expense removals (PERs) paid by the UK Border Agency has been as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	20.2
2007-08	22.3
2008-09	27.0
2009-10	27.5

These costs include the cost of tickets for both returnees and escorts, but not the actual escorting costs. PERs include individuals who are not failed asylum seekers, such as foreign national prisoners and illegal immigrants. Some failed asylum seekers are removed at carriers' expense so their costs are not included in the figures above.

In addition to the costs above the removal of a failed asylum seeker may involve costs related to caseworking and detention which will vary from case to case.

In addition to enforced removals UKBA also operates various voluntary removal schemes, where failed asylum seekers and illegal migrants are encouraged to return voluntarily to their country of origin. Expenditure on these schemes was as follows during the period in question:

	£ million
2006-07	12.4
2007-08	9.7
2008-09	10.0
2009-10	16.0

Asylum: Iraq

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers from Iraq were admitted to the UK in 2008-09; and whether she has made an estimate of the number of those admitted who were Christians. [26371]

Damian Green: The figures in the table are for asylum applications and initial decisions on asylum applications made at port and in country. These data exclude all subsequent decisions. Asylum applications are given by year of application; asylum initial decisions are given by year of decision, as initial decisions by year of application are not available. Totals are given by financial year 2008-09.

Information on the number of asylum seekers who were Christians is not available. This could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2008-09 financial year totals, nationals of Iraq

	Principal applicants
	Financial year 2008-09[3]
Applications	

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2008-09 financial year totals, nationals of Iraq

	Principal applicants *Financial year 2008-09*[3]
Total	1,505
Port	80
In country	1,430
Total decisions	1,475
Decisions	
Grants of asylum	160
Grants of humanitarian protection	10
Grants of discretionary leave	235
Total refusals	1,075

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Provisional figures.

Crime: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 114-15W, on crime: databases, in how many cases in each category of crime there was *(a)* a match and *(b)* no match on the National DNA Database. [24548]

James Brokenshire: As at 12 November 2010, there were 369,253 crime scene sample profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) submitted by police forces in England and Wales, of which an estimated 221,401 had been matched to subject sample profiles and an estimated 147,852 had not. The offence types recorded against these crime scene sample profiles are shown in the following table.

Since April 2002, records have been captured on the NDNAD Match Reporting Management Information Database (MID) on matches between crime scene sample profiles and subject sample profiles. The figures provided are estimates, as it is possible that some crime scene profiles were matched before 2002 and therefore not captured on the MID. The number of unmatched crime scene profiles may therefore be lower than indicated. In cases where a crime scene sample profile on the NDNAD has not matched to a subject sample profile, the crime may nevertheless have been detected through other evidence.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Offence type	*Unmatched*	*Matched*
Abduction and Kidnapping	359	540
Aggravated Burglary	1,238	1,640
Alcohol Technical Defences	3	5
Arson/Fire	1,102	1,305
Attempted Murder	554	744
Auto-Crime	4,308	5,725
Blackmail	56	54
Break in Offences	497	357
Burglary in a Dwelling	34,217	47,265
Criminal Damage	9,049	20,403
Customs and Excise	2	2
Documents	0	4
Driving After Consuming Drugs	1	13
Drugs	5	0
Drugs Services—Other	304	974
Expert Evidence	0	1
Explosives	20	14
Firearms	0	28
Fraud	0	6
GBH Assault	14	18
High Value Fraud/Forgery	33	50
Import Drugs (Customs and Excise)	3	2
Import/Export Controlled Drugs	28	41
Less Serious Assault	1,901	4,780
Low Value Fraud/Forgery	332	642
Murder/Manslaughter	2,088	1,931
Other Burglary	27,469	42,253
Other Serious	1,855	1,432
Other Sexual Offences	779	986
Other Specialist Services	3	6
Other Suspicious Death	129	119
Other Vehicle Crime	3,214	6,428
Other Volume Crime	3,256	4,949
Possession of Controlled Drugs	209	953
Possession of Firearms	181	361
Production of Controlled Drugs	696	1,842
Public Order	77	250
Rape	2,441	3,460
Robbery	7	15
Robbery Serious	2,666	3,228
Robbery Volume	3,796	4,886
Road Traffic Accident—Alcohol	5	37
Sexual Offences	16	27
Supply of Controlled Drugs	926	3,131
Suspicious Death/Abortion	0	3
Terrorism	33	13
Theft	52	43
Theft From a Vehicle	6,931	13,012
Theft inc Handling Stolen Goods	2,975	7,519
Theft of a Vehicle	31,045	33,492
Threat to Kill/Malicious Communication	0	2
Traffic	0	10
Traffic Offences Fatal	67	121
Traffic Offences Non-fatal	1,227	3,107
Unclassified/ Unknown	76	16
Using/Trading in/Shortening/ Converting Firearms	404	659
Wounding/GBH	1,203	2,497
Total	147,852	221,401

Crime: Hate

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what objectives her Department has set for its policy on hate groups operating in the UK. [24582]

James Brokenshire: The coalition programme for government outlines our objectives to deny public funds to any group that has recently espoused or incited violence or hatred; and to improve the recording of hate crime offences.

The Home Secretary also has the power to exclude (i.e. ban) an individual from coming to the United Kingdom where she considers that the individual's presence here would not be conducive to the public good. This may include those who display unacceptable behaviour by inciting hatred.

We are currently consulting the police on how hate crime information can best be collected. This commitment has been included in the Home Office's Business Plan. It is intended that the police will begin the collection of this data from April 2011. As with a whole raft of Government and police data, we will make information available in a transparent and accessible format.

The coalition agreement also includes the aim to restore rights to non-violent protest. We will review the law to ensure that the police continue to have the powers they need to protect local communities from intimidation and threatening behaviour and to deal with individuals and groups that espouse or incite violence.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is leading further work across Government to tackle non-violent extremism as part of our aim of promoting wider community integration.

We have announced a review of the Prevent strategy, aimed at tackling violent extremism and terrorism, with the objective of ensuring that it is more effective and properly focused. The review will consider whether the Prevent strategy should be expanded to include other forms of violent extremism. A revised strategy is due to be published in the new year.

Cybercrime: Human Rights

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to protect human rights groups operating within the UK from cyber attack by foreign states. [25268]

Nick Herbert: Information and advice on cyber security threats and cyber security protective security measures is publicly available on the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) website. This information is aimed at the businesses and organisations which comprise the UK's national infrastructure but is also useful for any organisation seeking to protect itself against threats of this nature. Alerts to the public, small businesses and other organisations, including charities and lobby groups, are available through the getsafeonline.org website which also offers comprehensive advice and guidance on internet security.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for her Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25535]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department complies with the cross government procurement guidelines published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Home Department's facilities management provider Ecovert has reported that currently 81% of food purchases for the staff restaurant and hospitality events are farm assured produce.

Deportation: Iran

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the forced deportation of Child M and his family to Iran; and if she will make a statement. [26458]

Damian Green *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Information contained in individual records held by the UK Border Agency is treated as being confidential and is not normally disclosed to third parties. This is, of course, unless they are authorised representatives of the individual concerned. The UK Border Agency has no record that the family has authorised the hon. Member to act on their behalf. This is not a question of secrecy for its own sake but simply a matter of protecting the privacy of the individual.

As he may be aware, Child M and his family are already represented by their constituency MP, my right hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman). I have already responded to him about this case in full.

Detainees: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress has been made in ending the practice of child detention through *(a)* pilot schemes to find alternatives to child detention and *(b)* recent representations made to her on alternatives to child detention; [27269]

(2) when she expects the use of child detention centres to cease. [27271]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. A review is currently under way to consider how this can be done in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring the departure of families who have no right to be in the UK. We need to be sure that any new process works in practice so we are testing out a range of new approaches aimed at keeping families with children in the community. We have also been working closely with a range of interested parties in the voluntary and statutory sectors who have experience and expertise in this area.

In the meantime, detention is being used only as a last resort after families have exhausted their appeal rights, refused an offer of assisted return and failed to comply with arrangements put in place by the UK Border Agency for their departure. The number of families detained in immigration removal centres has reduced significantly during the course of the review, and it is no longer the case that families are detained for long periods of time.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average amount of time a child spent in an immigration removal centre in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [27270]

Damian Green: Rather than calculate the average statistic for time spent in detention, the Home Office presents the data as ranges because this is a more informative overview and is not subject to distortions by a small number of cases with large values.

The latest published statistics show that as at 30 September 2010 there were five children, detained solely under Immigration Act powers, in UK Border Agency removal centres and short-term holding facilities. All five had been detained for seven days or less. This figure is rounded to the nearest five and is of people recorded as being under 18 on 30 September 2010. These figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have been clear in their commitment to end the detention of children. We therefore continue to work with our corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining our immigration laws.

Entry Clearances

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will establish a pilot scheme to enable sponsors of visitors to the UK on short-term visas to post a security bond; and if she will make a statement. [26285]

Damian Green: The main requirements for entry to the UK as a general visitor are to satisfy the Border Force officer that they intend to stay for a limited period and leave the UK at the end of their stay, that they do not intend to work or study and that they can support and accommodate themselves and any dependants from funds available to them and without recourse to public funds.

For family visitors, the UK Border Agency check that they generally intend to visit their sponsor in the UK, and that if necessary the sponsor will be able to maintain and accommodate them. We have no plans to go beyond this with further formal requirements such as a security bond.

Entry Clearances: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK had their last known address in *(a)* the borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such applicants were successful. [26270]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to provide definitive data on the applicants address at the time of application. The information provided is therefore based on the applicants last known address.

The latest period for which figures are available is for applications made between 1 May 2009 and 30 April 2010.

The number of applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK that had their last known address in the borough of Bexley was 584.

The number of such applications that were granted was 451.

The number of applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK that had their last known address in Greater London was 46,245.

The number of such applications that were granted was 38,188.

This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Football: South Africa

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on attendance at the 2010 FIFA World cup. [26148]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office accounting system does not identify separately expenditure on attendance at the World cup. However, the Home Office did not send any observers to the World cup.

Immigration

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to allow students from Commonwealth countries to remain in the UK after they graduate. [27174]

Damian Green: As the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) announced in her statement to Parliament of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-86, the Government will shortly launch a public consultation on proposed changes to the student visa arrangements. The consultation will seek views on the future of the Tier 1 Post Study Work category, the current scheme that allows international students who have achieved certain qualifications to stay in the UK and work for up to two years after they have completed their studies.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she has taken to ensure that the proposed changes to section 60 powers in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice A comply with *(a)* race relations and equality legislation and *(b)* Articles 8 (right to privacy) and 14 (non-discrimination) of the Human Rights Act 1998; [25467]

(2) what proposals she is considering to improve the safeguards in respect of section 60 powers under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. [25273]

Nick Herbert: Powers under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 contain important safeguards to prevent their misuse. All authorisations are intelligence based and approved by a police officer of at least inspector rank. The power is only used in a 'locality' within a police area, and only for 24 hours (with the option to extend this to 48 hours if authorised by a superintendent).

However previous guidance did not place any restrictions on its use within the locality of an authorisation. The code now includes new requirements to ensure that officers do not stop and search individuals unconnected with the purpose of a section 60 authorisation. Furthermore, following a period of statutory consultation, we have amended the guidance so that it now clearly states that when selecting persons or vehicles to be stopped officers must take care not to discriminate unlawfully against anyone on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. In addition to this we are currently examining the guidance and safeguards around section 60 in light of the judgment in Gillan and Quinton *v.* the United Kingdom to see if any further work is appropriate.

Police Community Support Officers

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department plans to provide for police community support officers in each of the next three years. [25696]

Nick Herbert: Police community support officers (PCSOs) make an important contribution to neighbourhood policing and the visible and available policing in communities the public wish to see. The spending review set out the overall settlement for policing. There will be an announcement to Parliament in early December setting out the details of allocations of grant to all forces, including any specific grant.

Police: Cybercrime

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests the Police Central e-crime Unit made in the course of investigations into cyber attacks on Government Departments in the last 12 months. [26927]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The Police Central e-crime Unit has made a significant number of arrests over the past 12 months, and has been very successful in tackling organised crime groups targeting the UK through the internet. Such criminals will attack multiple targets, including Government, and it is not possible to identify separately those arrested for attack on Government Departments.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers in (i) the Metropolitan Police Service and (ii) Cambridgeshire constabulary have been subject to disciplinary proceedings in each of the last three years. [26450]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The Home Office does not collect the information requested.

Police: Manpower

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 724-26W, on police: manpower, what estimate she has made of the number of police officers with 30 years service or more on 31 March 2010 who had specialist roles. [26076]

Mrs May *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* The information is not collected centrally.

Police: Offenders

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were convicted of a criminal offence in each of the last five years. [25907]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office neither collates nor collects the statistical information requested.

Police: Ports

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the future of port police forces; and if she will make a statement. [26041]

Nick Herbert: We continue to explore the potential benefits that the employment and usage of ports police provide. We have committed to creating a dedicated border police command, within the new National Crime Agency, to enhance national security, improve immigration controls, and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs. This command will have responsibility for tasking and coordinating those border enforcement operational staff who together will form the new Border Police capability, and will strengthen collaboration of all law enforcement agencies operating at the border.

Stop and Search

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many stop and searches there were in *(a)* each police authority area and *(b)* each London local authority area in each of the last five years; [23738]

(2) in what proportion of stop and searches in each *(a)* police authority area and *(b)* London local authority area the subject was from a (i) white, (ii) Black, (iii) Asian and (iv) other ethnic minority background in each of the last five years. [23739]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* Figures by police force area for each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09 (latest available) are contained in the tables placed in the House Library. These data are not collected centrally at local authority level.

Figures are provided separately for stops and searches under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and stops and searches in anticipation of violence under s60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

Figures on ethnicity of those stopped and searched use self-defined ethnicity for 2006-07 onwards. Figures on this basis for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are incomplete and therefore figures have been provided on ethnic appearance instead, which means that the categories do not match directly. Any comparisons before and after 2006-07 should therefore be made with caution.

Figures for total stops and searches appear in the annual Home Office bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales'. The 2008-09 edition is available online at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf

Figures for ethnicity of those stopped and searched appear in the annual Ministry of Justice publication 'Race and the Criminal Justice System'. The 2008-09 edition is available online at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/raceandcjs.htm

Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of *(a)* Black and *(b)* Asian people stopped and searched under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. [25270]

Nick Herbert: The Government share the concerns about disproportionality in the use of stop and search powers. We are working with the police service to help ensure that stop and search powers are used appropriately. There is, however, no single cause of disproportionality. It is important, therefore, to look at levels of disproportionality, and any specific demographic or other factors, in individual forces.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) have developed 'Next Steps', a diagnostic tool to ensure that a force's use of Stop and Search is not driven by unjustified factors such as discrimination or stereotyping. 'Next Steps' is currently focused on Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). The NPIA will support forces to implement 'Next Steps' and will target forces with high levels of disproportionality. The NPIA has recently commenced the roll out of 'Next Steps' in Dorset, Merseyside, and one borough of the Metropolitan police service.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of *(a)* Black and *(b)* Asian people stopped and searched under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; [25271]

(2) what research her Department has undertaken to identify the causes of the disproportionate number of Black and Asian people stopped and searched under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. [25272]

Nick Herbert: My Department has not undertaken any research on the causes of disproportionality in the use of section 60 stop and search powers.

Amendments to Code of Practice A; made under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984, which were laid before the House on 17 November 2010, provide further guidance to front-line police officers on the use of section 60 stop and search powers. That guidance makes clear that, in using section 60 powers:

> "officers must take care not to discriminate unlawfully against anyone on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010"

and gives further guidance on those characteristics, which include ethnicity.

Stop and Search: Terrorism

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many stop and searches were carried out under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in *(a)* each police authority area and *(b)* each London borough in each of the last five years; [23740]

(2) in what proportion of stop and searches conducted under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 the subject was from *(a)* a white, *(b)* a Black, *(c)* an Asian and *(d)* another ethnic minority background in each (i) police authority area and (ii) London local authority area in each of the last five years; [23741]

(3) how many arrests there were as a direct result of a stop and search under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each *(a)* police authority area and *(b)* London local authority area in each of the last five years. [23742]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* Figures by police force area for each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09 are contained in the tables placed in the House Library. These data are not collected centrally by London borough level. Further data have been provided which details the number of stop and searches in 2009-2010.

Figures on ethnicity of those stopped and searched use self-defined ethnicity for 2006-07 onwards. Figures on this basis for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are incomplete and therefore figures have been provided on ethnic appearance instead, which means that the categories do not match directly. Any comparisons before and after 2006-07 should therefore be made with caution.

Figures for total stops and searches appear in the annual Home Office bulletin "Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales". The 2008-09 edition is available on-line at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf

Figures for total stops and searches under Section 44 also appear in the Home Office bulletin "Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation: Arrests, Outcomes and Stops & Searches". The 2009-10 edition is available on-line at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1810.pdf

Figures for ethnicity of those stopped and searched appear in the annual Ministry of Justice publication "Race and the Criminal Justice System". The 2008-09 edition is available on-line at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/raceandcjs.htm

Visas

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria she has set for measuring the requirement that a Tier 1 visa applicant has achieved international recognition or is likely to do so. [27173]

Damian Green: We will announce details of the criteria for Tier 1 applicants of exceptional talent in due course.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* health, *(b)* recreational, *(c)* educational and *(d)* religious facilities are available for children in the Yarl's Wood detention centre. [27272]

Damian Green: Yarl's Wood, like all immigration removal centres, provides free onsite primary healthcare to the same level of care as NHS general practices in the community. This involves access to nursing care 24 hours per day, and visiting GPs who are on call outside of normal hours. All detainees, including children, are seen by a nurse within two hours of their arrival, and are provided with an appointment to see the GP within 24 hours. The nurse may make an earlier appointment if necessary.

The centre also provides dedicated services to meet the needs of families and children including a paediatric nurse, health and midwife visitors, weight and immunisation clinics which are able to prescribe malarial prophylaxis for identified risk groups, access to children's acute mental health services (CAMH) and counselling services.

The GP refers detainees to the local primary care trusts where secondary treatment is required.

Yarl's Wood provides a wide range of recreational facilities for children including a cinema, youth club overseen by a qualified youth worker, grassed and hard play areas with swings and climbing frames, an area for football and netball and a covered outdoor area with an all-weather pitch. The centre's crèche has a bouncy castle and a children's pet area with guinea pigs and rabbits.

Yarl's Wood has an Ofsted-registered crèche and school with four classrooms and play area delivering 30 hours per week of tuition by qualified teachers for children aged 5-16 years. The crèche is staffed seven days a week from 9-5 by appropriately qualified child care professionals for children under school age. The centre's gym and sports hall are available for five hours PE Monday to Friday during school hours as part of the delivery of the national curriculum.

The centre provides for the varied range of faiths and celebrates various religious festivals/cultural events. Multi faith rooms are available daily as are holy books of different faiths. The centre's resident faith ministers are accessible to all, including children.

While the facilities at Yarl's Wood are of a high standard, the Government have committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes as part of their coalition agreement. In July, the Deputy Prime Minister, the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg) announced the closure of the family unit at Yarl's Wood. We will agree a timetable for closing the unit when we announce the new model for managing family cases which support the Government's immigration policies. However, in the meantime, we must continue to ensure families those applications have failed continue to leave the UK promptly.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25989]

Mr Streeter: Statistics on the handling of parliamentary questions are kept by the Speaker's Committee in connection with its statutory responsibility to report to the House on the exercise of its functions.

In Session 2009-10, there were 10 questions tabled for answer on a named day, of which four (40%) received a substantive answer on the day named. Since May 2010 there have been eight named day questions, all of which received a substantive answer on the day named. All questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010.

Neither the Speaker's Committee nor the Electoral Commission has made an estimate of the average cost of answering a named day question on the day named for answer but it is noted that HM Treasury has established the cost of a written PQ as £149.00:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commissioners for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25990]

Mr Streeter: Statistics on the handling of parliamentary questions are kept by the Speaker's Committee in connection with its statutory responsibility to report to the House on the exercise of its functions.

In Session 2009-10, there were 30 questions tabled for ordinary written answer, of which 16 (53%) were answered within seven days and 21 (70%) were answered within 14 days. Between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 there were 22 questions tabled for ordinary written answer, of which 14 (64%) received a substantive answer within seven days and 18 (82%) received a substantive answer within 14 days. These periods include non-sitting Fridays, weekends and parliamentary recesses. All questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010.

Neither the Speaker's Committee nor the Electoral Commission has made an estimate of the average cost of answering an ordinary written question within seven days of tabling but it is noted that HM Treasury has established the cost of a written PQ as £149.00:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

EDUCATION

Academies

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his announcement of 1 September 2010, whether all the schools listed as converting from outstanding maintained school status have signed the model funding agreement published on his Department's website. [15416]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* All funding agreements will be published on the Department for Education's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/fundingagreements

Boarding Schools

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has made an assessment of the adequacy of the inspection regime for the state boarding school sector. [24534]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* The Department has not made an assessment of the adequacy of the inspection regime for the state boarding sector.

All boarding schools, whether in the maintained or independent sector, are subject to welfare inspections by Ofsted who inspect against the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools.

Inspections should be conducted to the highest possible standards and should enjoy the confidence of schools and parents. HM chief inspector, as the head of an independent inspectorate, is responsible for the overall quality of these inspections and ensuring that they are fair and robust.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to expand the provision of state boarding school places; and if he will make a statement. [24535]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* The Government support state boarding schools in England and wants to see the sector continue to thrive. We recognise that boarding provision increases the diversity of maintained school provision, contributes to inclusion and can help raise standards.

There are three academies developing boarding provision which are all due to open in September 2011. They are:

Harefield Academy in Hillingdon, London—50 boarders

Priory LSST Academy in Lincolnshire—60 (post 16) boarders

Wellington Academy in Wiltshire—100 boarders

Bookstart Programme: Finance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will allocate funding to the Bookstart programme for *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* subsequent years. [22220]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education's overall funding settlement was announced on 20 October 2010. We are working through the details of that settlement and the funding implications for individual policy and programmes, including the funding of Bookstart. We will make further announcements over the coming weeks.

Children: Hearing Impairment

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the *(a)* level and *(b)* effectiveness of the provision of specialist support services for deaf children by local authorities. [22420]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not require local authorities to provide specific information on deaf children. However, the Special Educational Needs (Provision of Information by Local Education Authorities) Regulations 2001 and the School Information Regulations 2008 require local authorities to publish their arrangements and policies on the provision available for children with special educational needs, which will include deaf children.

The Special Educational Needs Information Act (2008) requires the annual publication of information about children in England with special educational needs. The information published includes local authority data on outcomes for these children by SEN type, including hearing impairment, at key stages 2 and 4 in English, Maths and Science.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department requires local authorities to provide parents of deaf children with information on *(a)* specialist provision for deaf children, *(b)* eligibility criteria for support from the specialist support service for deaf children, (c) the (i) level and (ii) effectiveness of the specialist support service for deaf children and (d) the outcomes achieved by deaf children in their area. [22421]

Sarah Teather: The Department does not require local authorities to provide specific information on deaf children. However, the Special Educational Needs (Provision of Information by Local Education Authorities) Regulations 2001 and the School Information Regulations 2008 require local authorities to publish their arrangements and policies on the provision available for children with special educational needs, which will include deaf children.

The Special Educational Needs Information Act (2008) requires the annual publication of information about children in England with special educational needs. The information published includes local authority data on outcomes for these children by SEN type, including hearing impairment, at key stages 2 and 4 in English, Maths and Science.

Children: Service Personnel

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to allocate a supplement to the proposed pupil premium in respect of the children of service personnel. [24367]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October 2010, which included proposals to extend the pupil premium to the children of service personnel. We expect to announce our decisions on this shortly.

Curriculum

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 728-9W, on environmental protection: curriculum, when he expects to announce further details of the plans to review the curriculum; whether he expects that review to include a public consultation exercise; and if he will make a statement. [25335]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* Further details of our plans to review the National Curriculum will be announced shortly. We intend that the review process will be open and transparent and can confirm that we will be consulting widely, including launching a public call for evidence.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated in grants for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to allocate for 2011-12. [25818]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) The published Resource Accounts for 2009-10 show that we allocated £54.8 billion in grants that year.

(b) The Departmental Main Estimate shows that we expect to award £56.8 billion in grants in 2010-11.

Grant to be awarded in 2011-12 are not yet finalised.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in the Department in each of the last three years. [13475]

Tim Loughton: The total spend on official hospitality by the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Ministers in each of the last three financial years is:

	£
2007-08	9,000
2008-09	4,763
2009-10	8,998

All departmental expenditure relating to official hospitality is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21778]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State and Ministers hosted seven briefing events during this period, involving approximately 72 stakeholders from across the education and children's sectors to outline policy priorities and listen to their views. The total amount spent was £382.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Pay

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether all contracted staff working for his Department are paid at the level of the London living wage or above. [25473]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* All contracted staff working for the Department for Education in London are paid at the level of the London living wage or above. This does not apply to contracted staff working at our regional headquarter offices who are paid at the level of the National Minimum Wage or above.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Walsall Borough receive education maintenance allowance. [23265]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 November 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Walsall North (Mr Winnick) with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 17 November 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ23265 that asked:

"How many people in (a) England (b) the West Midlands and (c) Walsall Borough receive education maintenance allowance."

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

As at 31st October 2010 the take-up figures for young people who have received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year are:

England 514,179

West Midlands 64,308

Walsall Borough 3,738

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 2008/09 and 2009/10 are available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people in *(a)* Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England received education maintenance allowance in each year since its inception. [24443]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North (Catherine McKinnell) with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 23 November 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ24443 that asked:

"How many young people in (a) Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, (b) the North East and (c) England received Education Maintenance Allowance in each year since its inception."

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following table shows EMA take-up during each academic year since inception for England, the North East and Newcastle Upon Tyne Local Authority area.

	England	*North East*	*Newcastle upon Tyne*
2004/05	297,568	19,409	1,165
2005/06	430,327	25,755	2,168
2006/07	526,808	32,360	3,051
2007/08	547,235	33,803	3,282
2008/09	576,144	34,934	3,445
2009/10	644,497	39,102	3,726
2010/11[1]	515,726	31,578	2,982

[1] To 31 October 2010.

In comparing across years, it is important to understand that national roll-out was phased over several years. In the first year EMA was available to all 16-year-olds across England and to 17 and 18-year-olds in former pilot areas. In 2005/06 EMA was available to all 16 and 17-year-olds nationally. From 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16, 17 and 18-year-olds nationally.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people claimed education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Coventry. [24860]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in Birmingham received education maintenance allowance in the last year for which figures are available. [24865]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Northfield (Richard Burden) with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 23 November 2010:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ24865 that asked:

"How many pupils in Birmingham received education maintenance allowance in the last year for which figures are available."

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority (LA) level. The take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year and is based on the learners' home address and postcode.

The current EMA take up for Birmingham LA for the 2010/11 academic year to date (as at 31/10/10) is 15,896.

For the last full academic year (2009/10) the take-up was 19,862 (as at 31/08/10).

Education Maintenance Allowance: North Tyneside

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in North Tyneside receive education maintenance allowance (EMA); and what steps his Department is taking to assist those students who will no longer receive EMA in the next academic year to understand and prepare for the new system to replace EMA. [24799]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Figures on current take-up of education maintenance allowance (EMA) are a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the scheme for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for North Tynside (Mrs Glindon) with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Young people who are currently receiving the EMA will continue to receive it to the end of this academic year. Those who are continuing their education next September and need financial help with learning costs may be eligible for support from the enhanced discretionary learner support fund that will be administered by their school, college or training provider. The Department will consult with schools, colleges and training providers about the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support scheme that will replace EMA, including how to communicate the changes to students.

Free School Meals: Northumberland

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were in receipt of free school meals in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* Northumberland on the latest date for which figures are available. [22931]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special[3] schools: School meal arrangements[4,5]—As at January 2010 in Wansbeck parliamentary constituency, Northumberland local authority and England

	Wansbeck parliamentary constituency			*Northumberland local authority*			*England*		
	No. on roll[4,5]	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*	*No. on roll[4,5]*	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*	*No. on roll[4,5]*	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*
Maintained nursery and maintained primary[1]	3,340	640	19.2	15,490	2,390	15.4	3,838,680	711,410	18.5

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special[3] schools: School meal arrangements[4,5]—As at January 2010 in Wansbeck parliamentary constituency, Northumberland local authority and England

	Wansbeck parliamentary constituency			*Northumberland local authority*			*England*		
	No. on roll[4,5]	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*	*No. on roll[4,5]*	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*	*No. on roll[4,5]*	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*
State-funded secondary[1,2]	8,450	1,530	18.1	24,890	3,290	13.2	2,864,350	441,140	15.4
Special[3]	200	60	32.5	450	160	35.9	78,330	27,330	34.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department's free schools group provides advice to the public on setting up free schools. [24757]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education is committed to providing advice and support to those with an interest in Free Schools and to those who are developing proposals. In addition to the inquiry services provided by the Department, the New Schools Network acts as first point of contact for groups and individuals interested in setting up a Free School.

GCE A-level

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many pupils in further education colleges were entered for a modern foreign languages A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for A-levels in each such case; [20224]

(2) how many pupils in further education colleges were entered for a chemistry A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for A-levels in each such case; [20232]

(3) how many pupils in further education colleges were entered for a psychology A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for A-levels in each such case; [20233]

(4) how many pupils in further education colleges were entered for physics A-level in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* maintained selective schools and *(c)* independent schools in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils entered for A-levels in each such case. [20239]

Mr Gibb: The information is shown in the following tables.

Number and percentage of students in further education who were entered for a modern foreign languages A-level by type of institution

	Comprehensive schools		*Maintained selective schools*		*Independent schools*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1997	13,436	14.6	4,031	23.8	11,117	30.6
1998	13,022	13.4	3,898	22.2	10,907	29.8
1999	12,374	12.5	3,614	20.4	10,664	29.0
2000	10,897	11.0	3,386	18.9	9,965	28.0
2001	11,080	10.7	3,538	19.3	9,902	28.8
2002	9,695	8.8	3,339	18.3	9,525	29.0
2003	9,257	8.0	3,094	16.4	9,667	28.3
2004	8,984	7.7	3,073	15.9	9,535	27.4
2005	8,897	7.6	3,061	15.3	9,225	27.5
2006	9,609	8.2	3,071	15.3	9,423	27.9
2007	9,814	8.7	3,350	16.2	9,168	27.5
2008	10,318	8.8	3,416	16.1	9,560	27.7
2009	10,184	8.5	3,213	15.2	10,022	28.4
2010[1]	10,839	8.6	3,571	16.2	9,087	25.5

Number and percentage of students in further education who were entered for a chemistry A-level by type of institution

	Comprehensive schools		*Maintained selective schools*		*Independent schools*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1997	14,460	15.7	3,961	23.4	8,703	24.0
1998	14,718	15.2	4,200	23.9	8,996	24.6
1999	14,333	14.5	4,162	23.5	8,833	24.0
2000	14,318	14.4	4,248	23.7	8,521	24.0
2001	13,601	13.1	4,307	23.4	8,326	24.2
2002	13,236	12.0	4,264	23.3	7,922	24.1
2003	12,202	10.6	4,246	22.5	7,788	22.8
2004	12,528	10.7	4,405	22.8	8,185	23.5
2005	13,031	11.2	4,532	22.7	7,980	23.8
2006	13,592	11.7	4,858	24.2	8,072	23.9
2007	13,861	12.3	5,013	24.3	7,850	23.6
2008	14,286	12.2	5,396	25.5	7,966	23.0
2009	14,770	12.3	5,321	25.1	7,968	22.6
2010[1]	16,674	13.3	6,019	27.4	8,078	22.7

Number and percentage of students in further education who were entered for a psychology A-level by type of institution

	Comprehensive schools		*Maintained selective schools*		*Independent schools*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1997	6,230	6.8	837	4.9	463	1.3
1998	7,782	8.0	1,021	5.8	575	1.6
1999	8,586	8.7	1,168	6.6	595	1.6
2000	9,669	9.8	1,283	7.1	790	2.2
2001	11,109	10.7	1,468	8.0	751	2.2
2002	14,066	12.8	2,034	11.1	1,404	4.3
2003	16,830	14.6	2,702	14.3	2,033	6.0
2004	19,484	16.7	3,113	16.1	2,505	7.2
2005	21,696	18.6	3,585	17.9	2,507	7.5
2006	23,003	19.7	3,883	19.4	2,799	8.3
2007	22,743	20.1	3,890	18.9	2,820	8.5
2008	23,379	20.0	3,948	18.6	3,035	8.8
2009	23,910	19.9	3,821	18.0	3,134	8.9
2010[1]	25,604	20.4	4,264	19.4	3,315	9.3

Number and percentage of students in further education who were entered for a physics A-level by type of institution

	Comprehensive schools		*Maintained selective schools*		*Independent schools*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1997	12,126	13.2	3,305	19.5	6,454	17.8
1998	12,546	12.9	3,582	20.4	6,648	18.2
1999	12,694	12.8	3,575	20.2	6,734	18.3
2000	12,098	12.2	3,622	20.2	6,467	18.2
2001	12,052	11.6	3,568	19.4	6,455	18.7
2002	12,221	11.1	3,603	19.7	6,190	18.9
2003	11,175	9.7	3,537	18.8	6,143	18.0
2004	10,202	8.7	3,298	17.1	6,037	17.3
2005	10,313	8.9	3,339	16.7	5,469	16.3
2006	9,916	8.5	3,167	15.8	5,651	16.7
2007	9,921	8.8	3,291	16.0	5,423	16.3
2008	10,118	8.7	3,491	16.5	5,627	16.3
2009	10,748	9.0	3,527	16.7	5,796	16.4
2010[1]	11,875	9.5	3,817	17.4	6,144	17.2

[1] Figures for 2010 are provisional, all other years are final.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs).

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of students who attained A to C grades overall in A-levels in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 who had not re-sat any examination; [24625]

(2) how many students re-sat *(a)* AS and *(b)* A2 examinations in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010; [24626]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the number of students who re-sat *(a)* AS and *(b)* A2 examinations in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010 who attained a mark higher than their original grade; [24627]

(4) whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of students who attained A to C grades overall in

A-levels in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 who had re-sat (i) one and (ii) more than one AS examination; [24674]

(5) what proportion of students attaining A grades overall in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 re-sat (i) no examinations, (ii) one A2 examination, (iii) more than one A2 examination, (iv) one AS examination and (v) more than one AS examination; [24676]

(6) how many students who re-sat more than one *(a)* AS and *(b)* A2 examination in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010 achieved a mark higher than that of their original grade; [24677]

(7) how many students who sat *(a)* AS and *(b)* A2 examinations in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010 attained higher grades overall as a result of re-sitting examinations. [24678]

Mr Gibb: The information can currently be provided only at disproportionate cost. However we are interested in how re-sitting affects results and will be looking to assess the impact of recent changes which have reduced the number of units for most A and AS levels.

Music: Finance

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in his Department's funding of the Music Standards Fund on the core grant for *(a)* the Bromley Youth Music Trust and *(b)* other independent music councils. [20389]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State's recent announcement of changes to the Music Standards Fund is about the route by which local authorities currently receive funding for music, not about the funding itself.

The review that Darren Henley has been asked to carry out will make recommendations on any new route by which that funding will be made available. Following the spending review the Government have protected frontline spending on schools so that we can ensure that investment reaches schools directly. We have signalled that we will be cutting back on centrally funded programmes but no decisions have yet been made on the level of funding that will be made available specifically for music education.

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) for what reasons he decided not to put the contract eventually awarded to the New Schools Network out to competitive tender; [24813]

(2) for what reasons he decided not to develop a formal funding agreement with the New Schools Network in respect of the services it has been contracted to provide; [24814]

(3) whether he had discussions with the Minister for the Cabinet Office on the decisions to *(a)* award a contract to the New Schools Network without competitive tendering and *(b)* not to develop a formal funding agreement with the New Schools Network following the award of that contract; [24815]

(4) if he will assess the level of independence of the New Schools Network in respect of its delivery of the services he has contracted it to provide. [24816]

Mr Gibb: The formal grant agreement (not a contract) with New Schools Network (NSN), an independent charity, was signed on 8 November 2010. It contains appropriate clauses regarding conflicts of interest, performance indicators and the provision of information among others, as is usual practice.

The Department considered carefully the options for securing the requisite services from an external organisation. Given the need for specialist skills and experience to be in place quickly, it was decided to award a time-limited grant to NSN. In doing so the Department took account of the UK Public Procurement Regulations 2006 and the Compact Commissioning Guidance. There have not been any discussions with the Cabinet Office relating to this award.

NSN has championed the development of parent and teacher promoted schools and has been providing advice and support to those interested in establishing new schools since 2009. It has also been developing networks among interested groups and individuals. This experience makes it ideally placed to fulfil the role. The Department has given similar grants in the past, such as to the NSPCC, the Holocaust Education Trust, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and the Youth Sport Trust.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 920W, on the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document on each file on Clauses 11 to 14 that relate to *(a)* sex education and *(b)* general PSHE policy; and if he will make a statement. [23713]

Mr Gibb: Clauses 11 to 14 of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 relate to:

Family Proceedings

11. Restriction on publication of information relating to family proceedings

12. Authorised publication of court orders and judgments

13. Authorised news publications

14. Permitting publication for purposes of section 13: general

None of these clauses refer to sex education or general PSHE policy.

Primary Education

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to improve Key Stage 1 results. [26386]

Mr Gibb: Too many young children are not achieving the standards expected in early literacy and numeracy. In order to raise standards we will provide the resources to support the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics; introduce a new year 1 phonics screening check to confirm whether children have acquired the basics of phonic decoding and identify those needing additional support; and, as part of the review of the National Curriculum, make sure that children are able to grasp the core arithmetical functions by the time they leave primary school. We are also introducing a pupil premium to provide extra funding for those schools with the most challenging intakes.

Further details of these and additional reforms to improve standards are set out in The Importance of Teaching, Schools White Paper which was published on 24 November 2010.

Primary Education: Curriculum

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the remit of his Department's review of the national curriculum in primary schools includes a review of the use of a cross-curricular teaching approach; what recent representations he has received opposing any prohibition on a cross-curricular approach; and if he will made a statement. [23730]

Mr Gibb: We will be announcing detailed plans for a review of the national curriculum before the end of the year. There are no plans, however, to review the use of a cross-curricular teaching approach.

It is not the role of the national curriculum to prescribe how teachers should teach or how schools should organise their curriculum. We intend to give schools greater freedom over the curriculum by focusing the national curriculum on core knowledge and understanding in subject disciplines, whilst allowing schools to decide how best to teach and organise their curriculum to ensure that children acquire that knowledge and understanding.

We have received no recent representations opposing any prohibition on a cross-curricular approach.

Pupils: Bullying

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to promote anti-bullying week; and if he will make a statement. [24866]

Mr Gibb: The annual anti-bullying week presents a unique opportunity to focus the nation's attention on bullying issues and how to tackle it. During this year's anti-bullying week, the coalition Government are sending key messages to schools, young people and anti-bullying organisations regarding our commitment to tackling all forms of bullying through different mediums.

On 12 November 2010 I did an interview with the BBC in conjunction with Beatbullying on how to address bullying in schools. On 17 November 2010, the Deputy Prime Minster met a delegation from Beatbullying, receiving their petition on behalf of the Government. He also published a video message on YouTube to reinforce the importance of tackling homophobic bullying in schools and the wider society. On the same day, the Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friendthe Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) addressed the Anti-Bullying Alliance youth summit on behalf of the Government.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on reducing the levels of bullying in schools; what response his Department provided; and if he will make a statement. [24884]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to tackling all forms of bullying and want schools to take a zero-tolerance approach to tackling bullying in and outside the school. Anti-bullying organisations play an invaluable role in supporting schools to develop their approaches to tackling bullying, and supporting the victims of bullying.

On Tuesday 9 November I met with eight organisations that have an interest in tackling bullying, to discuss the coalition Government's approach to tackling bullying and to draw on their expertise and experience. They were the Anti-Bullying Alliance, Diana Award, Schools Out, Council for Disabled Children, Mencap, Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH), Stonewall and Beatbullying. At the end of the meeting, I asked them to send me their ideas on how together we can support schools in tackling bullying.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his proposed pupil premium payment will be paid to schools in addition to any funding already allocated to a pupil with a statement of special educational need. [22919]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The pupil premium will be based on figures from the previous January school census for relevant pupils in years from reception to year 11, irrespective of whether they have a statement or not. The grant will be paid to local authorities and they will be required to pass the premium on in its entirety to maintained mainstream schools.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how his proposed pupil premium will apply in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [23611]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium will operate in all areas of the country, including rural areas. We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use. Once we have selected a deprivation indicator it will be the same across the country.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in Bournemouth West constituency are expected to receive the pupil premium in the next 12 months. [23708]

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* South Thanet constituency and *(b)* England who will receive the proposed pupil premium. [24598]

Mr Gibb: We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use. The number of children eligible, either in a constituency or in England as a whole, will depend on this decision.

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of his proposed pupil premium on children in *(a)* Suffolk Coastal constituency and *(b)* England. [23962]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use. The number of children eligible, either in a constituency or in England as a whole, will depend on this decision.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of educational attainment by pupils eligible for free school meals in *(a)* South Thanet constituency and *(b)* England. [24588]

Mr Gibb: The latest available information for the 2008/09 academic year is provided in the following tables. The information for the 2009/10 academic year will be available after the publication of the Key Stage 2 and GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics Statistical First Releases in December.

Percentage of pupils[1, 2] achieving the expected level in English and Maths, and Reading, Writing and Maths, at Key Stage 2 in 2008/09[3]

	Pupils eligible for free school meals		*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*	
	Percentage achieving the expected level in English and Mathematics	*Percentage achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics*	*Percentage achieving the expected level in English and Mathematics*	*Percentage achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics*
South Thanet	41	33	66	57
England	53.6	41.5	75.7	65.4

[1] Includes pupils attending maintained schools including CTCs and academies.
[2] Overseas pupils are excluded from the parliamentary constituency figures. They are however included in the national figures.
[3] Data are final.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Percentage of pupils[1, 2] achieving 5+ A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, and 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths GCSEs, 2008/09[3]*

	Pupils eligible for free school meals		*Pupils not eligible for free school meals*	
	Percentage achieving 5+ A-C grades*	*Percentage achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths*	*Percentage achieving 5+ A*-C grades*	*Percentage achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths*
South Thanet	52.5	21.9	77.8	56.0
England	48.9	26.5	72.8	54.3

[1] Includes pupils attending maintained schools including CTCs and academies.
[2] Overseas pupils are excluded from the parliamentary constituency figures. They are however included in the national figures.
[3] Data are final.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the effects of his proposed pupil premium in *(a)* South Thanet constituency and *(b)* England. [24595]

Mr Gibb: We have made no assessment of the effect of the pupil premium in specific constituencies. We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use. We expect the effect of introducing the pupil premium across England to be one of raising the attainment of those children who are eligible for it.

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what indicators of deprivation apart from free school meals his Department uses to measure levels of deprivation for school children; and what the level of deprivation for school children in *(a)* Hastings and Rye constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England is according to each of those indicators. [25274]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education uses the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007 (IDACI) to measure levels of deprivation alongside the information the Department collects about free school meal eligibility.

Numbers and percentage of resident pupils[1] by IDACI decile

	Hastings and Rye constituency		*East Sussex*		*England*	
IDACI decile	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
0-10% most deprived	227	1.9	2,499	3.9	986,773	13.2
10-20%	3,041	26.0	6,052	9.4	865,456	11.6
20-30%	1,981	17.0	7,747	12.0	781,074	10.4
30-40%	1,422	12.2	7,397	11.5	729,243	9.8
40-50%	1,351	11.6	7,387	11.5	705,556	9.4
50-60%	775	6.6	6.356	9.9	689,114	9.2
60-70%	965	8.3	9,441	14.6	678,145	9.1

Numbers and percentage of resident pupils[1] by IDACI decile

	Hastings and Rye constituency		*East Sussex*		*England*	
IDACI decile	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
70-80%	645	5.5	9,915	15.4	684,317	9.2
80-90%	911	7.8	5,119	7.9	684,564	9.2
90-100% least deprived	361	3.1	2,591	4.0	674,252	9.0

[1] Includes solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils attending maintained primary, secondary, special, non-maintained special, CTCs and academies.

Source:

School Census January 2010.

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of RAISEonline as an indicator of deprivation; and whether he plans to adopt this mechanism to allocate funds through the pupil premium. [25278]

Mr Gibb: RAISEonline is an interactive web-based database used by schools to support their school self evaluation—it is a system rather than an indicator. It does hold some data on pupil characteristics including eligibility for FSM which is one of the options being considered as a deprivation indicator.

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what indicators of deprivation he is considering for use as the mechanism for allocating funds through the pupil premium. [25279]

Mr Gibb: The indicators of deprivation being considered are those set out in the 'Consultation on school funding 2011-12: Introducing a pupil premium'. They are free school meal eligibility—which could be current eligibility or a measure of whether a pupil is currently or has been eligible for FSM; tax credit indicator—pupils in families in receipt of out of work tax credit; and Mosaic or Acorn—commercial packages based on classifications of postcodes.

Pupils: Electoral Register

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to take steps to ensure that schools assist all eligible pupils to register to vote. [24077]

Mr Gibb: The Government are keen to promote opportunities for young people to participate in politics, but we have no plans to do this via schools. We are committed to reducing bureaucracy in schools to allow them to concentrate on their core business, which is to raise standards of attainment. Electoral registration officers (EROs) are under a statutory duty to compile and maintain comprehensive and accurate electoral registers. Information about registering to vote is available locally through local authority websites and on the Electoral Commission website at:

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/

and on:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/

Pupils: Equality

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to reduce the difference between the attainment levels of boys and girls in schools. [25289]

Mr Gibb: We are committed to raising the attainment of all pupils in schools, regardless of their gender, ethnicity and special educational needs.

We know that boys in particular seem to experience problems with reading and writing and subjects that depend most heavily on those skills. Our emphasis on early mastery of the basics, including through systematic synthetic phonics teaching, will give all children a firm foundation on which to build their future learning and should particularly benefit boys who are struggling.

Pupils: Health

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Health on the preparation of guidance for schools that clarifies expectations and statutory responsibilities, including the roles and responsibilities of key staff members, on the management by schools of long-term health conditions, such as asthma. [25055]

Mr Gibb: The Departments of Health and Education are working together to produce concise guidance about the management by schools of long-term health conditions, such as asthma. This aims to clarify expectations and statutory responsibilities, and to provide a clear explanation of the roles and responsibilities of key staff members. It will replace the existing guidance: "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Year Settings", which was published jointly by the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills in 2005.

Resits: Free School Meals

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse was of re-sit examinations in the academic year 2009-10; and whether he made an estimate of the number of students eligible for free school meals who re-sat examinations in that year. [24675]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect this information. Decisions on re-taking examinations are taken at school level, on academic grounds, by teachers, pupils, and their parents or carers.

Schools

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will issue guidance to schools on his priorities for the state sector. [22278]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, published on 24 November, sets out our plans to raise educational standards to the levels of the best performing countries and narrow the attainment gap between pupils from rich and poor backgrounds. An Education Bill will follow to introduce the legislation needed to make the vision set out in the White Paper a reality. The Government trust head teachers and want to give schools the freedom and flexibility to make the right decisions to deliver high quality education to all children and young people. This means freeing schools from excessive central prescription and significantly reducing the amount of guidance and advice given to schools. We are currently reviewing the thousands of pages of guidance issued to schools and will remove any unnecessary documents. We will also significantly strip back and consolidate what remains into a small number of clear, readable and useful guides on key issues.

Schools: Capital Investment

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding excluding funding previously allocated to the Building Schools for the Future programme he plans to allocate to rebuilding or refurbishing *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) England, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) Coventry in each of the next five years. [22785]

Mr Gibb: Decisions about future capital funding including funding for primary and secondary schools will be determined in the light of the capital review announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July. The capital review team will complete its work by the end of the calendar year.

In the spending review announcement on 20 October 2010, the Chancellor announced that DfE capital spending will be:

	£ billion
2011-12	4.9
2012-13	4.2
2013-14	3.3
2014-15	3.4

Schools: Hearing Impairment

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that deaf children are able to receive high-quality teaching in British sign language in mainstream schools; [21148]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure access to appropriate learning resources for deaf children attending mainstream schools; [21149]

(3) what recent representations he has received on the quality and availability of educational support and resources for deaf children. [21150]

Sarah Teather: High quality teaching is the cornerstone to improving the educational outcomes for all children. The Government currently sponsor the I Sign project—a three-year pilot led by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People and the National Deaf Children's Society—which supports our position of giving parents greater choice by putting in place the British Sign Language (BSL) skills infrastructure necessary to make BSL a viable option for families.

Through investment in BSL courses for interpreters and tutors and the development of a new Level 3 Certificate in Learning Support (Communication Support Worker), the I Sign pilot aims to help improve the educational attainment of deaf and hearing impaired pupils by increasing the BSL skills of the workforce for all those who work with deaf children and families, including those in mainstream settings.

Mainstream schools have a duty to use best endeavours to make the provision that a child's learning difficulties requires. We will be publishing a Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities which will look at how to improve families' experience of the SEN system. As part of that, we will be looking at how to increase local solutions to better enable localities to develop provision that makes the best use of staff and specialist resources.

The Government value the important contribution from those organisations and individuals working to support deaf children and their families and welcome their input into how the needs of these children can best be met. The recent National Deaf Children's Society's Hands up for Help! report, as well as contributions received during the recent Green Paper call for views, will be considered in informing the development of the forthcoming Green Paper.

Schools: Sports

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his letter of 20 October 2010 to the Youth Sport Trust, whether he plans to *(a)* redirect to and *(b)* ring-fence in school budgets the funding presently allocated to the Youth Sport Trust; what his policy is on the development of school sport; and if he will make a statement. [22098]

Mr Gibb: The grant currently allocated to the Youth Sport Trust by the previous Government funds them to work on a range of policy areas in connection with PE and sport in schools. The Department's grant funding agreement with the Trust expires at the end of March 2011. In his letter to the Youth Sport Trust of 20 October 2010, the Secretary of State explained that he had no plans to commission further work from the Youth Sport Trust in these areas. The money saved will not be fed through the Dedicated Schools Grant and further details on the Coalition Government's approach to school sport will be announced shortly.

This Government's approach to PE and school sport differs fundamentally from that of the last Government. While the network of school sport partnerships has helped schools to increase participation rates in areas targeted by the previous Government, the fact remains that the proportion of pupils playing competitive sport regularly has remained disappointingly low. Only around two in every five pupils play competitive sport regularly within their own school, and only one in five plays regularly against other schools. Through the comprehensive spending review, the Secretary of State has ensured that front line budgets for schools have been protected. The removal of centrally driven, top down programmes will mean that schools will have more flexibility to use their funding in areas which they identify as their own priorities. This includes competitive sport.

The Coalition Government will encourage more competitive sport through the creation of an Olympic-style school sport competition. Over the next year, the Department for Education will work closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to develop a model to take this forward.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department provided to each local authority in England for careers and Connexions services in *(a)* 2008-9 and *(b)* 2009-10 and what equivalent expenditure he expects to incur in 2010. [25141]

Mr Gibb: Connexions funding is paid to local authorities as part of the Area Based Grant (ABG). Local authorities are free to use the un-ringfenced ABG as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas. The Connexions allocations for each local authority in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table:

£

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Barking and Dagenham	2,135,835	2,240,946	2,307,413
Barnet	2,859,769	2,714,745	2,620,723
Barnsley	2,205,107	2,313,628	2,543,299
Bath and North East Somerset	1,403,928	1,370,345	1,363,043
Bedfordshire[1]	3,505,688	—	—
Bedford borough		1,465,059	1,462,201
Central Bedfordshire	—	1,965,163	1,976,288
Bexley	2,258,109	2,224,658	2,241,851
Birmingham	11,598,496	11,054,022	11,041,218
Blackburn with Darwen	1,897,017	1,944,424	1,942,646
Blackpool	1,847,217	1,837,938	1,827,692
Bolton	2,951,714	3,096,977	3,126,891
Bournemouth	1,322,610	1,387,700	1,417,809
Bracknell Forest	1,248,546	1,185,230	1,065,998
Bradford	4,999,312	5,231,922	5,261,420
Brent	2,601,070	2,483,963	2,469,858
Brighton and Hove	2,180,983	2,189,813	2,167,918
Bristol	3,576,383	3,484,002	3,447,371
Bromley	2,499,349	2,403,908	2,408,810
Buckinghamshire	3,784,634	3,592,708	3,455,960
Bury	1,656,126	1,737,629	1,887,805
Calderdale	2,073,434	2,046,741	2,057,580
Cambridgeshire	4,536,860	4,306,787	4,066,514
Camden	1,925,970	2,020,753	2,079,846
Cheshire[1]	5,350,028	—	—
Cheshire East	—	2,490,744	2,504,255
Cheshire West and Chester	—	2,738,198	2,739,897
City of London	217,476	228,178	250,829
Cornwall	3,965,389	4,123,537	4,120,511
Coventry	3,342,950	3,173,422	3,158,928
Croydon	3,205,064	3,209,614	3,211,589
Cumbria	4,442,949	4,217,638	4,093,511
Darlington	995,950	1,044,964	1,148,696
Derby (City)	2,364,299	2,453,271	2,458,612
Derbyshire	6,058,264	5,906,203	5,955,901
Devon	5,387,090	5,220,313	5,227,787
Doncaster	3,134,965	3,289,247	3,347,957
Dorset	2,822,958	2,961,884	3,020,302
Dudley	3,031,490	3,029,173	3,023,431
Durham	4,956,762	4,999,034	5,003,606
Ealing	2,514,411	2,573,209	2,588,967
East Riding of Yorks	2,395,442	2,513,329	2,539,149
East Sussex	3,996,083	4,127,521	4,133,868
Enfield	3,048,524	2,942,302	2,946,685
Essex	10,837,768	10,731,707	10,788,610
Gateshead	1,910,170	2,004,175	2,118,030
Gloucestershire	4,846,892	4,601,097	4,288,908
Greenwich	2,868,202	3,009,355	3,168,221
Hackney	2,609,071	2,737,472	2,888,913
Halton	1,603,374	1,682,281	1,718,540
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,475,346	1,547,953	1,592,527
Hampshire	9,515,254	9,399,152	9,393,133
Haringey	2,476,065	2,593,898	2,588,100
Harrow	1,879,255	1,874,784	1,846,840
Hartlepool	1,113,733	1,168,543	1,284,543
Havering	2,255,523	2,141,141	2,087,035
Herefordshire	1,548,216	1,469,703	1,394,246
Hertfordshire	8,576,130	8,141,218	8,184,407
Hillingdon	2,863,097	2,717,904	2,588,297
Hounslow	2,295,067	2,289,625	2,275,528
Hull	3,220,085	3,376,466	3,363,553
Isle of Wight	1,304,907	1,332,546	1,332,634
Isles of Scilly	25,000	25,000	25,000
Islington	2,092,847	2,195,843	2,413,822
Kensington and Chelsea	1,793,254	1,702,315	1,531,065
Kent	11,537,262	11,796,670	11,836,047
Kingston Upon Thames	1,187,361	1,146,488	1,127,058
Kirklees	3,752,250	3,936,910	3,960,221
Knowsley	1,996,839	2,095,110	2,303,089
Lambeth	2,439,164	2,527,658	2,540,147
Lancashire	9,332,495	9,692,878	9,695,711
Leeds	6,985,015	6,630,791	6,529,176
Leicester (City)	4,361,000	4,139,845	3,723,384
Leicestershire	4,231,167	4,439,395	4,471,790
Lewisham	2,859,414	2,786,385	2,787,305
Lincolnshire	5,542,404	5,261,338	5,264,350
Liverpool	5,619,996	5,366,083	5,333,680
Luton	2,034,424	2,134,545	2,153,194
Manchester	5,480,855	5,202,910	5,121,423
Medway	2,333,652	2,448,498	2,550,283
Merton	1,628,829	1,546,228	1,473,135
Middlesbrough	1,883,863	1,976,574	2,133,493
Milton Keynes	2,326,563	2,240,110	2,246,998
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,041,855	3,000,199	2,973,710
Newham	3,395,303	3,471,609	3,472,979
Norfolk	6,969,810	6,616,357	6,389,342
North East Lincolnshire	1,845,876	1,936,718	2,070,292
North Lincolnshire	1,558,786	1,635,499	1,721,465
North Somerset	1,466,477	1,538,647	1,558,615
North Tyneside	1,881,708	1,974,312	1,986,382
North Yorkshire	4,474,612	4,247,696	4,216,686
Northamptonshire	6,173,383	5,860,319	5,648,861
Northumberland	3,190,975	3,029,154	2,813,002
Nottingham (City)	3,319,723	3,162,497	3,128,087
Nottinghamshire	6,639,216	6,302,528	6,257,359
Oldham	2,486,158	2,608,510	2,685,121
Oxfordshire	4,913,800	4,669,339	4,657,858
Peterborough	1,788,971	1,877,012	1,962,997

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	£ *2010-11*
Plymouth	2,353,042	2,468,127	2,449,832
Poole	1,183,921	1,189,791	1,173,789
Portsmouth	1,845,179	1,928,417	1,920,840
Reading	1,216,312	1,276,171	1,321,260
Redbridge	2,181,020	2,167,227	2,172,357
Redcar and Cleveland	1,712,832	1,797,126	1,825,497
Richmond upon Thames	1,323,865	1,256,730	1,163,227
Rochdale	2,264,862	2,376,323	2,506,746
Rotherham	2,749,965	2,885,300	3,101,497
Rutland	269,331	282,585	310,637
Salford	2,504,047	2,581,857	2,576,179
Sandwell	3,396,071	3,558,512	3,577,380
Sefton	2,883,000	2,804,102	2,797,167
Sheffield	4,801,931	4,955,465	4,957,247
Shropshire	2,328,714	2,216,296	2,202,159
Slough	1,206,360	1,265,729	1,285,588
Solihull	2,127,535	2,089,791	2,093,279
Somerset	4,302,492	4,084,304	3,960,444
South Gloucestershire	2,127,551	2,019,659	2,011,391
South Tyneside	1,820,008	1,873,976	1,875,510
Southampton	2,010,141	2,109,067	2,185,394
Southend on Sea	1,500,644	1,574,496	1,636,062
Southwark	3,179,484	3,161,844	3,178,853
St Helens	2,079,205	2,090,147	2,089,913
Staffordshire	6,737,879	6,744,172	6,737,109
Stockport	2,390,783	2,508,441	2,520,061
Stockton on Tees	1,932,205	2,027,295	2,065,879
Stoke on Trent	2,761,049	2,896,929	3,080,460
Suffolk	5,776,012	5,508,235	5,531,601
Sunderland	3,340,512	3,333,282	3,336,564
Surrey	8,628,887	8,191,299	7,367,269
Sutton	1,602,425	1,654,444	1,660,234
Swindon	1,844,348	1,846,214	1,847,666
Tameside	2,375,322	2,492,219	2,499,106
Telford and Wrekin	1,773,089	1,798,599	1,803,889
Thurrock	1,453,580	1,525,116	1,657,326
Torbay	1,148,857	1,205,396	1,300,057
Tower Hamlets	2,716,974	2,850,684	3,133,669
Trafford	1,819,698	1,886,908	1,892,281
Wakefield	3,277,829	3,386,663	3,399,169
Walsall	2,919,640	3,061,227	3,068,488
Waltham Forest	2,434,491	2,457,014	2,459,481
Wandsworth	2,166,382	2,168,526	2,153,211
Warrington	1,720,152	1,754,915	1,767,568
Warwickshire	4,220,230	4,105,983	4,098,631
West Berkshire	1,214,237	1,273,993	1,390,903
West Sussex	5,704,250	5,445,474	5,477,332
Westminster	2,238,826	2,125,291	1,911,490
Wigan	3,120,097	3,273,647	3,298,656
Wiltshire	3,423,148	3,342,973	3,371,102
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,193,378	1,166,154	1,159,487
Wirral	3,689,000	3,501,924	3,299,236
Wokingham	1,236,931	1,174,204	1,136,637
Wolverhampton	2,619,554	2,748,470	2,890,404
Worcestershire	4,406,206	4,263,443	4,268,515
York	1,391,800	1,418,001	1,396,446
Total England	468,732,000	466,732,000	466,732,000

[1] From 1 April 2009 four new local authorities were created: Bedfordshire LA split into Bedford borough and Central Bedfordshire and Cheshire LA split into Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to allocate funding to local authorities to wind up the careers and Connexions services, including for any necessary redundancy payments. [25388]

Mr Gibb: Funding allocations for the next spending review period have not yet been determined. Any changes that may be necessary in local service provision as a result of the establishment of the all-age careers service will be for local authorities to work through, involving, where appropriate, Connexions service providers. We will work with local authorities and with contracted Connexions service providers to support them over the transition period as we move to establish an all-age careers service.

Science: GCSE

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* Skipton and Ripon constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England were entered for (i) chemistry, (ii) physics and (iii) biology as separate subjects at (A) GCSE and (B) A-level in each of the last five academic years. [17232]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following tables:

Number and percentage of pupils in the Skipton and Ripon constituency who were entered for selected subjects in GCSE and A-level for the period 2006-10

		Biology		*Chemistry*		*Physics*	
Qualification		*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4 or KS5)*
GCSE	2006	228	20.5	228	20.5	229	20.6
	2007	230	20.1	229	20.0	230	20.1
	2008	344	29.2	343	29.1	343	29.1
	2009	374	31.5	370	31.1	370	31.1
	2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
A-level	2006	102	14.6	117	16.8	62	8.9
	2007	114	15.5	136	18.5	70	9.5
	2008	128	16.9	127	16.8	70	9.2
	2009	126	15.9	130	16.5	75	9.5

Number and percentage of pupils in the Skipton and Ripon constituency who were entered for selected subjects in GCSE and A-level for the period 2006-10

		Biology		Chemistry		Physics	
Qualification		*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4 or KS5)*
	2010	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs)

2010 constituency data are not available as school level data have not yet been published.

Number and percentage of pupils in North Yorkshire who were entered for selected subjects in GCSE and A-level for the period 2006-10[1]

		Biology		Chemistry		Physics	
Qualification		*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4 or KS5)*
GCSE	2006	581	7.9	580	7.9	581	7.9
	2007	576	7.9	575	7.9	577	7.9
	2008	858	11.7	838	11.4	836	11.4
	2009	986	14.1	954	13.6	947	13.5
	2010[1]	1,269	18.3	1,273	18.3	1,274	18.4
A-level	2006	583	16.6	444	12.6	317	9.0
	2007	644	17.8	490	13.5	291	8.0
	2008	594	16.4	437	12.1	356	9.8
	2009	593	15.6	496	13.0	341	8.9
	2010[1]	680	17.1	493	12.4	362	9.1

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs)

Number and percentage of pupils in England (maintained sector) who were entered for selected subjects in GCSE and A-level for the period 2006-10[1]

		Biology		Chemistry		Physics	
Qualification		*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4or KS5)*	*Number*	*% (of those at end of KS4 or KS5)*
GCSE	2006	35,441	6.0	34,598	5.8	34,281	5.8
	2007	38,049	6.4	36,771	6.1	36,598	6.1
	2008	58,614	9.8	53,839	9.0	53,309	8.9
	2009	72,125	12.5	67,819	11.8	67,713	11.7
	2010[1]	99,762	17.3	96,241	16.7	96,220	16.7
A level	2006	37,698	13.6	26,323	9.5	17,928	6.5
	2007	38,278	13.6	27,227	9.6	18,464	6.5
	2008	39,835	13.5	28,342	9.6	18,925	6.4
	2009	39,530	12.5	29,173	9.3	19,824	6.3
	2010[1]	43,883	12.6	32,299	9.3	21,646	6.2

[1] 2010 data for North Yorkshire and England are provisional.
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs).

The GCSE figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools only.

The A-level figures relate to students at the end of advanced level of study in maintained schools and FE colleges.

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils were entered for three separate GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology in each local authority in 2009. [24241]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who were entered for three separate GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology in each local authority in 2009

	2009		
	Number of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology	*Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4*	*Percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology*
Total (maintained sector)	66,386	576,421	11.5

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who were entered for three separate GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology in each local authority in 2009

			2009
	Number of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology	*Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4*	*Percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology*
North East	3,209	30,670	10.5
Darlington	113	1,188	9.5
Durham	256	5,740	4.5
Gateshead	240	2,160	11.1
Hartlepool	51	1,244	4.1
Middlesbrough	187	1,741	10.7%
Newcastle upon Tyne	275	2,725	10.1
North Tyneside	231	2,290	10.1
Northumberland	809	3,800	21.3
Redcar and Cleveland	265	1,914	13.8
South Tyneside	137	1,913	7.2
Stockton-on-Tees	157	2,430	6.5
Sunderland	488	3,525	13.8
North West	8,437	83,352	10.1
Blackburn with Darwen	60	1,803	3.3
Blackpool	57	1,648	3.5
Bolton	601	3,611	16.6
Bury	169	2,221	7.6
Cheshire East	479	4,013	11.9
Cheshire West and Chester	454	3,979	11.4
Cumbria	730	6,077	12.0
Halton	120	1,542	7.8
Knowsley	20	1,645	1.2
Lancashire	1,660	13,657	12.2
Liverpool	542	5,357	10.1
Manchester	243	4,685	5.2
Oldham	289	3,036	9.5
Rochdale	20	2,612	0.8
Salford	148	2,347	6.3
Sefton	225	3,537	6.4
St. Helens	114	2,156	5.3
Stockport	346	3,041	11.4
Tameside	215	2,994	7.2
Trafford	576	2,895	19.9
Warrington	271	2,570	10.5
Wigan	264	3,929	6.7
Wirral	834	3,997	20.9
Yorkshire & Humber	6,036	60,857	9.9
Barnsley	148	2,642	5.6
Bradford	386	5,876	6.6
Calderdale	248	2,630	9.4
Doncaster	339	3,681	9.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	463	4,015	11.5
Kingston upon Hull, City of	86	2,914	3.0
Kirklees	486	4,708	10.3
Leeds	999	8,272	12.1
North East Lincolnshire	152	1,955	7.8
North Lincolnshire	172	2,030	8.5
North Yorkshire	940	6,990	13.4
Rotherham	376	3,676	10.2
Sheffield	687	5,740	12.0
Wakefield	363	4,014	9.0
York	191	1,714	11.1
East Midlands	6,028	51,663	11.7
Derby	350	2,862	12.2
Derbyshire	994	8,909	11.2
Leicester	255	3,496	7.3
Leicestershire	829	7,391	11.2

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who were entered for three separate GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology in each local authority in 2009

			2009
	Number of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology	*Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4*	*Percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology*
Lincolnshire	1,185	8,473	14.0
Northamptonshire	1,122	8,027	14.0
Nottingham	214	2,788	7.7
Nottinghamshire	1,011	9,243	10.9
Rutland	68	474	14.3
West Midlands	6,683	64,883	10.3
Birmingham	1,617	12,292	13.2
Coventry	163	3,534	4.6
Dudley	162	3,965	4.1
Herefordshire	214	1,920	11.1
Sandwell	122	3,615	3.4
Shropshire	230	3,214	7.2
Solihull	403	3,074	13.1
Staffordshire	1,112	9,853	11.3
Stoke-on-Trent	260	2,720	9.6
Telford and Wrekin	316	2,115	14.9
Walsall	460	3,710	12.4
Warwickshire	927	5,942	15.6
Wolverhampton	267	2,742	9.7
Worcestershire	430	6,187	7.0
East of England	8,334	65,171	12.8
Bedford	174	1,859	9.4
Cambridgeshire	1,118	5,843	19.1
Central Bedfordshire	263	2,867	9.2
Essex	2,322	16,136	14.4
Hertfordshire	1,957	13,000	15.1
Luton	169	2,410	7.0
Norfolk	860	8,922	9.6
Peterborough	264	2,287	11.5
Southend-on-Sea	245	2,203	11.1
Suffolk	850	7,772	10.9
Thurrock	112	1,872	6.0
London	27,659	219,825	12.6
Inner London	2,293	22,960	10.0
Camden	157	1,442	10.9
Hackney	83	1,346	6.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	198	1,051	18.8
Haringey	249	2,160	11.5
Islington	33	1,414	2.3
Kensington and Chelsea	0	569	0.0
Lambeth	228	1,560	14.6
Lewisham	282	2,136	13.2
Newham	111	3,401	3.3
Southwark	191	2,366	8.1
Tower Hamlets	246	2,353	10.5
Wandsworth	431	1,854	23.2
Westminster	84	1,308	6.4
Outer London	6,010	50,761	11.8
Barking and Dagenham	176	2,044	8.6
Barnet	392	3,236	12.1
Bexley	385	3,187	12.1
Brent	449	2,793	16.1
Bromley	535	3,509	15.2
Croydon	269	3,651	7.4
Ealing	276	2,793	9.9
Enfield	249	3,622	6.9
Greenwich	130	2,415	5.4

Number and percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who were entered for three separate GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology in each local authority in 2009

			2009
	Number of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology	*Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4*	*Percentage of pupils entered for GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology*
Harrow	212	2,155	9.8
Havering	179	3,024	5.9
Hillingdon	359	2,919	12.3
Hounslow	234	2,542	9.2
Kingston upon Thames	333	1,487	22.4
Merton	197	1,561	12.6
Redbridge	512	3,241	15.8
Richmond upon Thames	195	1,407	13.9
Sutton	826	2,595	31.8
Waltham Forest	102	2,580	4.0
South East	12,344	89,497	13.8
Bracknell Forest	62	1,112	5.6
Brighton and Hove	124	2,289	5.4
Buckinghamshire	1,523	5,584	27.3
East Sussex	753	5,197	14.5
Hampshire	1,917	14,084	13.6
Isle of Wight	187	1,513	12.4
Kent	2,605	16,698	15.6
Medway	318	3,385	9.4
Milton Keynes	276	2,642	10.4
Oxfordshire	754	6,309	12.0
Portsmouth	128	1,993	6.4
Reading	252	958	26.3
Slough	191	1,488	12.8
Southampton	177	2,257	7.8
Surrey	1,516	10,511	14.4
West Berkshire	236	2,000	11.8
West Sussex	767	8,230	9.3
Windsor and Maidenhead	313	1,542	20.3
Wokingham	245	1,705	14.4
South West	7,012	56,607	12.4
Isles of Scilly	[1]—	15	[1]—
Bath and North East Somerset	342	2,172	15.7
Bournemouth	346	1,780	19.4
Bristol, City of	304	3,131	9.7
Cornwall	682	5,987	11.4
Devon	743	7,704	9.6
Dorset	746	4,366	17.1
Gloucestershire	1,134	6,882	16.5
North Somerset	260	2,265	11.5
Plymouth	332	2,966	11.2
Poole	329	1,684	19.5
Somerset	445	5,688	7.8
South Gloucestershire	425	3,107	13.7
Swindon	180	2,259	8.0
Torbay	[1]—	1,518	[1]—
Wiltshire	739	5,083	14.5

[1] Figures suppressed due to small numbers.

Specialised Diplomas

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's policy is on the 14 to 19 diploma. [24761]

Mr Gibb: We are firmly committed to freeing schools and colleges from centralised control and reducing bureaucratic burdens. We have already made a number of changes to make it easier to offer the diploma—removing the entitlement, removing the requirement for schools and colleges to be in consortia and removing the need for schools and colleges to go through the time-consuming diploma Gateway process.

Working with Ofqual and the awarding organisations, we are now planning to reform the diploma further to make it simpler to teach and award so that it can take its place alongside other qualifications, without the need for additional support. This is part of our commitment to improve vocational education, and we will consider any decision on the reform of the diploma in the light of Professor Wolf's review of vocational education, which we expect in the spring.

Specialist Schools

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for future funding of specialist schools. [22235]

Mr Gibb: Funding for specialist schools, including for High Performing Specialist Schools (HPSS), will be mainstreamed from April 2011. This funding, approximately £450 million for 2010-11, is not being removed from the schools system and will continue to be routed to schools through the Dedicated Schools Grant. All schools will be free to decide how to develop specialisms in the light of the total resources available to them.

Technology: Teachers

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of *(a)* specialist technology teachers and *(b)* primary class teachers with technology training. [24172]

Mr Gibb: The Department has several strategies in place to increase the number of specialist design and technology teachers. Training bursaries of £9,000 are available to people taking up postgraduate Initial Teacher Training (ITT) places for design and technology as this is one of the shortage subjects. In addition, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) are funded to train 400 existing teachers by March 2011 in teaching practical cooking within the design and technology curriculum. Many of these teachers are not existing design and technology teachers.

The Department also funds continuing professional development for secondary design and technology teachers to improve their subject specific knowledge and keep them up to date with latest developments.

The latest vacancy rate for design and technology posts (at 0.4%) is slightly below the rate for all subjects (at 0.5%) in 2010. A snapshot in 2010 showed that there were 50 advertised vacancies for full-time design and technology permanent appointments or appointments of at least one term's duration.

We do not collect information centrally on the number of primary class teachers with technology training.

Travellers: Education

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has of the number of children in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage communities who are not in full-time education; and what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that all children in such communities receive full-time education. [25395]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 November 2010]:* We do not have information about the number of children who are not in full-time education.

Local authorities in England and Wales have had, since February 2007, a statutory duty to make arrangements to identify all children missing from education in their area. The duty applies in relation to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being at school (for example, being educated at home, privately educated or in alternative provision).

It is important that schools and local authorities implement the systems and regulations and follow the guidance in place around keeping registers, excluding pupils and removing pupils from the school roll. Schools must fulfil their requirement to inform local authorities when pupils are deleted from the school roll or have disappeared following 10 days unauthorised absence from the school. Notifying the local authority is important because the local authority can then attempt to trace the children and ensure that any pupils that are removed from the roll of a school are receiving a suitable education.

Wines

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on wine in each year since 1997. [12829]

Tim Loughton: The accounting systems of the Department and its predecessors do not record information separately on this type of expenditure and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Any expenditure on wine is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Work Experience

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to review its policy on work experience provision for secondary school students. [25064]

Mr Gibb: We currently have no plans to review the policy on work experience provision for secondary school students.

Youth Services: Manpower

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Joint Negotiating Committee-qualified full-time youth workers are employed in each local authority. [21379]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not collect this data. However, the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) published an audit of the workforce in December 2009 and this includes some national level estimates of the numbers of youth and community workers. The report is available on CWDC's website at:

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/young-peoples-workforce/state-of-the-young-peoples-workforce-report

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the rules in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme which make provision for allowances to be retained during temporary closure or pending rationalisation in taking account of changes in the economic situation in respect of *(a)* trading and *(b)* availability of finance. [25408]

Gregory Barker: The temporary closure and rationalisation rules of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) are intended to incentivise industry to maintain production at their most efficient installations. The provision to retain full allocation during periods where a company is rationalising production or temporally shutting down production provides flexibility for companies to move their allocation to the sites that are still at full production in order to meet their compliance needs. Companies can also sell their allowances in order to raise finance in response to the economic situation.

The EU ETS Directive was amended in 2009 for phase III (which runs from 2013-20). The rules for closures are currently being discussed in Europe, but there will be rules which cover significant capacity reductions, partial and full cessation of activities to ensure that installations do not benefit from continued free allocation when they are not carrying out an EU ETS activity.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of sustainable bioliquids in providing renewable heat under the Renewable Heat Incentive. [26467]

Charles Hendry: As part of the spending review process we have looked at the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme to target the scheme more effectively. The details of the scheme, including decisions on sustainable waste derived bioliquids, will be announced shortly.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess methods by which sustainable waste derived bioliquids could be included in *(a)* the renewable heat incentive scheme and *(b)* feed-in tariffs grandfathered under the renewables obligation. [26468]

Charles Hendry: The Department is responsible for three renewable financial incentives: the renewable heat incentive (RHI), the feed-in tariff (FIT) for small scale electricity and the renewables obligation (RO) for large scale electricity. Taking each of these incentives in turn, the position of sustainable waste derived bioliquids is as follows:

(a) Renewable heat incentive

The details of the renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme, including decisions on sustainable waste derived bioliquids, will be announced shortly.

(b) Feed-in tariffs

The FITs scheme will be subject to periodic review which will include consideration of the eligibility of different technologies. We are continually collecting data which, as we learn more, will be fed into the review process.

(c) Renewables obligation (RO)

Bioliquids are currently supported in the RO but are not grandfathered. We recognise there are potential benefits from grandfathering some waste derived bioliquids and are considering how we might do this. This is being fed into the work currently under way on the RO banding review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Children

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the NATO Civilian Representative in Afghanistan on the Representative's assessment of the safety of children in *(a)* Kabul and *(b)* London. [26888]

Alistair Burt: I have not discussed the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) senior civilian representative's assessment of the situation of children in Kabul and London with him. The situations in London and Kabul are very different. While we are making progress in Afghanistan and Kabul has seen a reduction in crime and violent incidents, clearly there is more work to be done to ensure progress continues in improving the security environment for all Afghans, including children.

Afghanistan: Christianity

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of Christians in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [26367]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of recent reports concerning Christian converts from Islam. Our embassy in Kabul is monitoring these events closely.

The Government strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief. We are working to support all individuals who face discrimination and persecution on the basis of religion, including Christians, wherever they are in the world. Article Two of the Afghan constitution provides for freedom of religion, and we expect the Afghan Government to fully implement this. The international community have a regular dialogue with the Afghan Government on human rights, including on the need to ensure the security of all Afghans, regardless of religion.

Afghanistan: Police

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many Afghan National Police officers have been recruited in 2010; [27447]

(2) how many Afghan National Police officers recruited in 2010 have left that police force; [27448]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the number of officers in the Afghan National Police. [27449]

Mr Hague: An estimated 31,343 Afghan National Police (ANP) officers have been recruited by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A) between January and October 2010. ANP attrition has been decreasing over time and is currently at approximately 18% per annum, with monthly attrition at 1.5%. There are no specific data available on the number of ANP officers who were recruited in 2010 and have subsequently left the force. The total strength of the Afghan National Police (ANP) stood at 116,367 in October 2010. The growth target of 109,000 by October 2010 has been exceeded, and a number of initiatives to encourage more effective recruitment have been implemented, including tripling the number of recruiters, setting up a Recruiting Command and setting up mobile sub-recruiting stations.

Auschwitz Restoration Project

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to provide funding to the Auschwitz restoration project. [25640]

Mr Bellingham: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation has been speaking to a number of countries and a significant amount has already been pledged. The Government support the long term preservation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and other historic sites. Ministers are currently considering how support might be offered and intend to make a decision shortly.

Bahrain: Foreign Relations

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to mark the 40th anniversary of the UK-Bahrain Treaty of Friendship. [26381]

Alistair Burt: The 40th anniversary of the 1971 Treaty of Friendship will be an important milestone in our bilateral relationship with Bahrain. We look forward to celebrating the anniversary together, both in the UK and in Bahrain. In the context of the Gulf Initiative and the launch of the UK-Bahrain Joint Steering Committee, our Ministers will be keen to contribute to celebrations.

Cayman Islands: Genetically Modified Organisms

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department *(a)* had discussions with Oxitec prior to and *(b)* holds information on the (i) consent procedures in place for and (ii) environmental impact assessment of the experimental release of genetically-modified mosquitoes in Grand Cayman in 2009 and 2010. [26347]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for environmental affairs is devolved to the Government of the Cayman Islands. My Department did not therefore have discussions with the parties concerned.

However, the Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU) in Grand Cayman has confirmed that it is working in collaboration with Oxitec; that it provided a risk analysis and an environmental impact assessment; and that it complied with regulatory procedures provided for in local legislation.

Further information can be obtained from the Director of the MRCU, Dr William D Petrie, who can be contacted at:

william.petrie@gov.ky.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department was notified prior to *(a)* shipments by Oxitec of genetically-modified mosquito eggs to Grand Cayman for use and *(b)* the release of such mosquitos in experimental trials in 2009 and 2010. [26348]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for environmental matters is devolved to the Government of the Cayman Islands. My Department was not therefore notified in advance of the shipments of genetically-modified mosquito eggs nor the release of such mosquitoes in experimental trials in the Cayman Islands.

Further information about this subject can be obtained from Dr William D Petrie, Director of the Mosquito Research and Control Unit (MRCU), at:

william.petrie@gov.ky.

Colombia: Homicide

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 85W, what information his Department holds on the number of trade unionists assassinated in Colombia in 2010. [26324]

Mr Lidington: The only figures the Department holds on the number of trade unionists killed in 2010 are the official figures referred to in the answer given by the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the hon. Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) to the hon. Member for Dundee West (Jim McGovern) on 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 85W. Since that answer we have received an update from the Colombian authorities to cover the period from January to October which suggests 25 trade unionists were killed.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Colombian government on the recent killing of Elizabeth Silva Aguilar. [27377]

Mr Lidington: We have not to date made any representations to the Colombian Government over the killing of Elizabeth Silva Aguilar since there remains some uncertainty about the facts.

Our embassy in Bogota is aware of this case and will raise the matter with the Colombian authorities should it prove necessary.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of military involvement in the deaths of children in Caqueta province, Colombia. [27378]

Mr Lidington: On 5 November 2010 a three-year-old boy was allegedly shot dead during a confrontation between the Colombian Army and guerrillas from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The Colombian Minister for Defence, Rodrigo Rivera, issued a statement regretting the child's death and confirmed that the incident was being investigated by both the Attorney-General's Office and the armed forces.

Colombia: Military Aid

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 913W, whether the dismissed military personnel had previously participated in British military or counternarcotics assistance programmes in Colombia; [26323]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 84W, whether those Colombian soldiers accused of involvement in drug trafficking, extrajudicial killings and working with illegal paramilitary groups had previously participated in British military or counternarcotics assistance programmes to Colombia. [26325]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our counter-narcotics work in Colombia is scrupulously monitored to ensure it cannot contribute to any human rights abuses. We do not discuss the detail of this narcotics work publicly as doing so risks putting UK and Colombian lives in danger.

Departmental Allowances

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long on average he spends managing expenses and allowances claims; and if he will make a statement. [24519]

Alistair Burt: The Parliamentary Office manage the expenses of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Management of these expenses does not require a significant amount of the Foreign Secretary's time.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what grants his Department has awarded in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are to be made; [26582]

(2) what the monetary value was of grants awarded by his Department in 2009-10; and how much his Department plans to award in such grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [26584]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided the following grant in aid funding to the BBC World Service, British Council, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the Great Britain China Centre (GBCC) and the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC).

		£ million
	2009-10	*2010-11*
BBC World Service	268	262.5
British Council	200.8	188
WFD	4.1	3.4
GBCC	0.3	0.27
MACC	2.2	2.2

These are by far the greatest beneficiaries of FCO grants. Smaller grants have also been made to project implementers and other organisations around the world to help deliver UK foreign policy objectives. Budgets in the FCO are devolved to over 260 posts and details of these payments are not held centrally. As a result, this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In 2011-12, the FCO will be making the following grant in aid funding to the BBC World Service and British Council:

2011-12	*£ million*
BBC World Service	253
British Council	180

Other allocations for 2011-12 and beyond are still to be decided in the light of the recent spending round settlement.

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years. [23760]

Alistair Burt: We have no record of any expenditure by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's agencies and non-departmental public bodies on influencing UK public policy, which we understand to mean lobbying.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23785]

Alistair Burt: We have no record of any of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's non-departmental public bodies having engaged public affairs or public relations consultants to influence public policy, which we understand to mean lobbying.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* red wine, *(b)* white wine, *(c)* champagne and *(d)* fortified wine purchased for the Government wine cellar since his appointment. [26874]

Mr Bellingham: Government Hospitality buys wines when they are relatively less expensive, and stores them until they are ready to use. Government Hospitality has spent £25,043 on new stock for the cellar since May 2010, all of which has been on white wine only.

Guatemala

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Minister of State with responsibilities for Latin America plans to meet representatives of Peace Brigades International during his visit to Guatemala. [26849]

Mr Jeremy Browne: One of the UK's top priorities in Guatemala is to support good governance and human rights which are essential to improving the deteriorating security situation in the country. During my visit to Guatemala I met with civil society organisations and young leaders—including young indigenous women—during an event to promote a national campaign against domestic violence which the UK is actively supporting.

I did not have a separate meeting with representatives of Peace Brigades International in Guatemala on this occasion, but I did raise human rights issues with the Guatemalan Government and I am aware of the work Peace Brigades International does in Guatemala and around the world.

Guatemala: Ethnic Groups

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether the Minister of State with responsibilities for Latin America plans to raise the matter of consultation with indigenous communities on major development projects during his visit to Guatemala; [26847]

(2) whether the Minister of State with responsibilities for Latin America plans to raise the matter of the effects of major development projects on indigenous communities during his visit to Guatemala. [26848]

Mr Jeremy Browne: One of the UK's top priorities in Guatemala is to support good governance and human rights which are essential to improving the deteriorating security situation in the country. During my short visit to Guatemala I raised human rights and our concern about the death penalty, the importance of tacking violence and organised crime as well as the impact of climate change with the Guatemalan Government. I also met civil society organisations and young leaders—including young indigenous women—during an event to promote a national campaign against domestic violence which the UK is actively supporting.

Our embassy in Guatemala City and officials in London will continue to maintain a dialogue with both the Guatemalan Government and civil society groups on the human rights of the indigenous communities of Guatemala.

Israel: Borders

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the effectiveness of the Security Fence in Israel in reducing the number of *(a)* suicide bombings and *(b)* other terrorist incidences in the State of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [26611]

Alistair Burt: There are no reliable statistics on the effectiveness of Israel's security barrier, which was commissioned following the 2nd intifada of 2000. Although we believe Israel has every right to defend itself, we believe that barriers are not the best way to achieve this in the 21st century. Where it is constructed outside of Green Line Israel, the Israeli separation barrier is illegal both according to international and Israeli law. It is worth noting that the barrier on some 40% of the intended route remains unbuilt. We judge that Prime Minister Fayyad's reform of the Palestinian security sector has played the most significant part in reducing the violence committed by Palestinian groups against targets in Israel. The best way of ensuring Israel's security is to come to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace agreement with its neighbours.

Israel: Foreign Relations

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what bilateral *(a)* agreements and *(b)* programmes exist between the UK and Israeli governments. [25636]

Alistair Burt: The UK-Israel bilateral relationship is based on deep connections between our two countries. From the Balfour Declaration to the recent bilateral film treaty, our relationship has a rich heritage, embracing a wide range of activities over many years. The UK and Israel share a long history of agreement and cooperation across political, economic, scientific, commercial and cultural areas both bilaterally and multilaterally. You can find details of UK Israel-agreements at the website of our embassy in Israel

http://ukinisrael.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/working-with-israel/uk-israel-relations/.

The underlying objective of any of our programmes in Israel is to enrich the friendship between our two nations and to support efforts to achieve a two-state solution, that will see a viable Palestinian state existing in peace and security alongside Israel.

Kashmir

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in India and Pakistan on the future of Kashmir; and what recent reports he has received on progress towards self-determination for the people of Kashmir. [27171]

Alistair Burt: Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss India-Pakistan relations, including Kashmir, with their counterparts. However the long standing position of the UK is that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to mediate in finding one. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this in the Foreign Affairs debate on 27 May 2010 and during his visit to Pakistan in June.

We continue to call for an improvement in the human rights situation on both sides of the line of control and for an end to external support for violence in Kashmir. UK funding supports human rights, conflict prevention and peace building efforts on both sides of the line of control.

MI6: Finance

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget was of the Secret Intelligence Service in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and what his latest estimate is of that budget for 2010-11. [25165]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 19 November 2020]*: For national security reasons, details of individual intelligence agency budgets are not disclosed. The Secret Intelligence Service is funded through the Single Intelligence Account (SIA), along with the Security Service and Government Communications Headquarters.

The SIA actual spend (as per the published financial statements) for 2005-06 was £1.2 billion resource and £0.2 billion capital, for 2008-09 it was £1.6 billion resource and £0.3 billion capital and for 2009-10 it was £1.8 billion resource and £0.3 billion capital.

The SIA budget for 2010-11 is £1.7 billion resource and £0.3 billion capital as set out in the spending review 2010.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent of arms smuggling into Gaza; what discussions he has had with the government of *(a)* Israel and *(b)* Egypt on this issue since September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [25053]

Alistair Burt: Despite the efforts of Israel, Egypt and the international community, weapons continue to be smuggled into Gaza, which is a cause of great concern. We continue to work with the international community to support all efforts to implement the steps set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1860 of January 2009, including the prevention and interdiction of illicitly trafficked arms into Gaza and the alleviation of the humanitarian and economic situation.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to bring about the release of Gilad Shalit; and if he will make a statement. [27339]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary recently met with Gilad Shalit's family while on his visit to the region, making clear that we continue to call for Hamas to unconditionally release Gilad Shalit and that we consider it utterly unacceptable that he is denied International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made the following statement on 25 June, the fourth anniversary of Shalit's capture:

> "Today marks the fourth anniversary of the abduction of Israeli soldier, Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit. My thoughts are with Gilad's parents today. I sincerely hope that they will soon be able to welcome their son home.
>
> The UK has long called for Gilad Shalit's immediate and unconditional release and we reiterate that call today. It is also vital that Hamas allows the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Gilad immediately and ensure that he is in good health. His continued captivity without any ICRC access and with only very occasional, minimal contact with his family is utterly unacceptable. We continue to call on Hamas to renounce violence and take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to free Gilad Shalit without delay."

Religious Freedom

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have used his Department's toolkit advising on the promotion and protection of religion or belief internationally; and what assessment he has made of its effectiveness. [26377]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's freedom of religion or belief toolkit has been circulated to all the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions. Our posts have been encouraged to use it in their work to promote freedom of religion or belief. The toolkit has also been distributed within the EU and was presented at a public hearing on 'Freedom of religion or belief in the EU's external relations' held in the European Parliament in March this year.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries. They do so on a case by case basis and we do not hold this information centrally. In order to answer your question a Foreign and Commonwealth Office wide search would be required and this search would incur disproportionate cost.

Shaker Aamer

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Secretary of State on a possible timetable for the return of Shaker Aamer to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [26563]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated the Government's request for the release and return to the UK of Shaker Aamer when he met the US Secretary of State in Washington on 17 November 2010. The decision on Mr Aamer's future lies solely with the US Government. The outcome of our government-to-government discussions is not certain.

Sherif Hassan Abdelwahab

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Egypt on the detention at Cairo airport on 9 November 2010 of Sherif Hassan Abdelwahab Muhammad and the deportation of his wife Emma Hassan. [27446]

Alistair Burt: We have been in touch with the EU delegation in Egypt on this issue. The EU delegation intends to raise the case of Mr Sherif Hassan Abdelwahab Muhammad with the Egyptian authorities.

We are determined to uphold British values abroad and condemn all instances of discrimination, arbitrary detention or persecution against individuals and groups because of their religion or belief. The protection of human rights, including freedom of religion, is a central component of Egypt's ongoing dialogue with the European Union.

Spain: Deaths

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Tenerife on the death of Jordan Walchester; what consular assistance has been provided to Mr Walchester's family; and if he will make a statement. [26817]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has made no representations to the Government of Tenerife on the tragic death of Jordan Walchester in Arona, Tenerife. I was very sorry to learn of Jordan's death and would like to extend my sincere condolences to the Walchester family.

Consular officials have maintained regular contact with the Walchester family, providing bereavement guidance and information and advice about local procedures and regulations. Consular officials have also been in contact with the local authorities and will continue to monitor the ongoing judicial proceedings into the death of Mr Walchester.

Sri Lanka: Administration of Justice

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the International Commission of Jurists report on administrative detention in Sri Lanka. [26799]

Alistair Burt: The report reinforces our concerns on the lack of humanitarian access to former combatants and the continued lack of clarity over their legal status. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I raised these concerns with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister during his visit to the UK on 19/20 October. Our high commissioner in Colombo also regularly raises these issues with the Sri Lankan Government.

Since the publication of the International Commission of Jurists report, several thousand detainees have been released. Sri Lanka's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission has also called for a speedy resolution of remaining cases and improved transparency over detainees' whereabouts. But we and the international community continue to have concerns. We hope the Sri Lankan Government will take swift action to address these.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Sri Lankan counterpart on human rights in Sri Lanka. [26798]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I discussed with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 19 and 20 October 2010 the importance of improving the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. We emphasised in particular the need for Sri Lanka to demonstrate its commitment towards freedom of speech and to ensure a credible and independent process to address allegations of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law during the conflict. Our high commissioner in Colombo also regularly raises these issues with the Sri Lankan Government.

Taiwan: Climate Change Convention

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the attendance of the Environmental Protection Administration of Taiwan as an observer at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties; and if will he make a statement. [26422]

Mr Bellingham: The Government support Taiwan's practical participation in international organisations where this does not require statehood.

The Government attach importance to engagement with Taiwan on climate change issues and have regular exchanges with the Taiwanese authorities about low carbon development. Taiwan's shift towards a greener economy is gaining momentum and we are actively supporting this transition.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Taiwan's participation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; and if he will make a statement. [27397]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government support Taiwan's practical participation in international organisations where this does not require statehood.

The Government attach importance to engagement with Taiwan on climate change issues and has regular exchanges with the Taiwanese authorities about low carbon development. Taiwan's shift towards a greener economy is gaining momentum and we are actively supporting this transition.

Uganda: Prisoners

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to the Ugandan Government on the arrest and detention of Al Amin Kimathi. [26621]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my noble Friend Lord Howell of Guildford gave to the noble Lord Chidgey on 15 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA172.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the recent UN Security Council briefing on Western Sahara, what mechanisms will be put into place to monitor human rights in El Aauin, Western Sahara. [26607]

Alistair Burt: We remain committed to using our presidency of the UN Security Council to encourage both the parties and the Group of Friends to consider a range of options for independent verification of the human rights situation in Western Sahara and identify the international actor or body which is best placed to deliver that function. I intend to discuss both recent violence in Western Sahara and human rights monitoring when I visit Morocco later this month.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the denial of entry into Morocco of two Spanish MPs and one MEP on a visit to El Aauin, Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [26797]

Alistair Burt: We have not received any official reports from either the Spanish or Moroccan Ministries of Foreign Affairs. However, we are aware of media reporting of this matter and officials are monitoring the situation closely.

Western Sahara: Violence

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the recent UN Security Council briefing on Western Sahara, what recent assessment he has made of reports of violence in Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [26608]

Alistair Burt: We chaired a meeting of the UN Security Council on 16 November 2010 to gather evidence about recent events from Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, and UN envoy to Western Sahara ambassador Christopher Ross. However, due to restrictions on access for international observers, including the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), we are not yet able to make a firm assessment of the situation.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 29 September 2010 on the payment of interns. [27454]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I replied to the correspondence from the hon. Member regarding the payment of interns on 23 November. I apologise for the delay in responding.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Minister for the Cabinet Office for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available; [25986]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled *(a)* to the Minister for the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer (i) in Session 2009-10 and (ii) since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25985]

Mr Maude: This Session, in the period specified the Cabinet Office has received 585 ordinary written questions. In respect of those questions 501 (86%) were answered within five sitting days; 73 (12%) were answered after five sitting days and 11 remain unanswered.

In the same period the Cabinet Office received 142 named day questions. In respect of those questions 117 (82%) were answered on the specified date, 22 (15%) were answered after the specified date and three questions remain unanswered.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with Sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The Cabinet Office does not hold data relating to the cost of parliamentary questions. However HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these average costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The estimated costs that have applied from 20 January 2010 are:

Written question—£154

Oral question—£425

The disproportionate cost threshold (DCT), the level above which Departments can refuse to answer a written PQ is £800.

The Treasury, in making its assessment of the cost of answering questions, does not differentiate between the types of written questions.

IPSA: Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority within the statutory remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. [25882]

Mr Maude: The remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Parliamentary Ombudsman) is updated annually. As part of this exercise, consideration is given to whether bodies established in year should be brought within the Parliamentary Ombudsman's remit.

NDPBs: Finance

Dr Pugh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he takes to encourage arms-length bodies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* improve their cash management and *(b)* increase the level of funds deposited with the Exchequer for the purpose of reducing interest on Government debt. [11647]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Treasury co-ordinates departmental cashflow information so it can provide the Debt Management Office (DMO) with the best possible estimate of the Government's net cash position at the end of the day, so that the DMO can borrow or lend the expected shortfall or surplus. The Treasury works with Departments to improve forecasting performance and to minimise commercial balances.

Government Departments submit cashflow forecasts including data relating to public bodies they are responsible for to the Treasury. The Treasury applies financial charges or rebates at the end of the year depending on departmental performance. Individual Departments are responsible for ensuring all their public bodies provide them with the necessary data so that the Treasury can provide accurate forecasts to the DMO.

Treasury guidance contained in "Managing Public Money" states that all public bodies should minimise commercial balances. Individual Departments are responsible for ensuring the public bodies follow this guidance.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

London Olympics: Sporting Legacy

16. **Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to secure a sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [26749]

Hugh Robertson: I asked Sport England to develop their £135 million Places People Play strategy which, along with the investment in the Olympic Park, will mean a new generation of iconic facilities; protection for our local playing fields; and the Gold Challenge will both raise money for charity and get people playing more Olympic sports. The School Olympic style competition will get competitive sport back in our schools. All of this is supported by protecting the Whole Sport Plan and elite athlete funding in the spending review.

Creative Industries: Scotland

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the creative industries in Scotland of his decision not to grant Scottish Television independent producer status. [26744]

Mr Vaizey: The Department undertook an impact assessment as part of the public consultation on the potential reclassification of production companies owned by Channel 3 licence holders. This was published on the departmental website as part of the consultation:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6415.aspx

Arts

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance his Department provides to arts organisations visiting the UK; and what UK-based organisations have received assistance from his Department and its agencies for overseas visits under reciprocal arrangements. [26625]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not provide direct funding for arts organisations visiting the UK or to British based organisations visiting overseas. All arts funding is allocated through Arts Council England (ACE). ACE have supplied the information in the table, showing arts organisations abroad who have been allocated money in 2009-10, where there have been substantial benefits for English artists and audiences:

Name of applicant/organisation	*Amount awarded (£)*
Agnieszka Kurant	1,500.00
Bildmuseet, Umea University	5,000.00
Carsten Nicolai	15,000.00
Foundation 4.99	2,400.00
International Association for the Biennial of Young Artists of Europe and Mediterranean	75,000.00
Linda Tedsdotter	3,300.00
Olaf Brzeski	1,330.00
Orpheus Di Andrea Marini (artist management organisation)	42,935.00
Simon H. Fell	1,290.00

Additionally, under reciprocal arrangements, ACE funded outside UK-based 'Shademakers' £56,903 in 2009-10. This collaboration and co-organisation works between Germany and London to deliver carnival work to UK audiences at places including the Notting Hill Carnival. They collaborated with artists with an EU remit, their activities mainly focused in London and Liverpool.

Arts Council: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the economic effects of the reduction in lending for the arts sector proposed in the comprehensive spending review funding of organisations in Greater London which are funded by the Arts Council. [26420]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England (ACE) allocates Government funding as grants, and does not lend funds. As part of the spending review, the Department will be reducing its own administrative budget by 50% and has asked a number of its arm's length bodies, including ACE, to do the same. At a difficult time our aim has been to ensure that the maximum amount of funding is spent at the front line, rather than on bureaucracy. We had regular discussions with those arm's length bodies during the spending review and those discussions continue. We are confident that in cutting administration in order to limit cuts to the front line, arts organisations across the country, including those in Greater London, will continue to thrive.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment in respect of the economic effects on the arts sector of the reduction in funding resulting from the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review for organisations funded by the Arts Council in the East of England; and if he will make a statement. [26565]

Mr Vaizey: As part of the spending review, the Department will be reducing its own administrative budget by 50% and has asked a number of its arm's length bodies to do the same. At a difficult time our aim has been to ensure that the maximum amount of funding is spent at the front line, rather than on bureaucracy. We had regular discussions with those arm's length bodies during the spending review and those discussions continue. We are confident that in cutting administration in order to limit cuts to the front line, arts organisations across the country, including those in the eastern region, will continue to thrive.

Arts: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the change in the level of his Department's funding for each arts sector in each region in each of the last five years. [26687]

Mr Vaizey: The Department's funding for the arts is awarded through Arts Council England (ACE) at arm's length from Government. ACE has supplied in the table the estimated change in levels of funding for each artform in each region for the last five years.

		Estimated changes in amounts awarded (%)			
Region	*Artform*	*From financial year 2005-06 to financial year 2006-07*	*From financial year 2006-07 to financial year 2007-08*	*From financial year 2007-08 to financial year 2008-09*	*From financial year 2008-09 to financial year 2009-10*
East	Combined arts	63	-18	15	36
	Dance	40	-30	31	13
	Literature	93	-46	25	-25
	Music	-18	-6	32	7
	Not art form specific	0	-75	-8	-65
	Theatre	19	-4	-1	2
	Visual arts	7	-30	23	45
Total		17	-21	15	14
East Midlands	Combined arts	19	-43	-10	53
	Dance	50	-13	-22	46
	Literature	7	-67	170	-22
	Music	23	-23	0	-12
	Not art form specific	36	107	21	-56
	Theatre	-4	-1	0	46
	Visual arts	-4	-3	38	21
Total		8	-15	8	28
London	Combined arts	6	-2	3	7
	Dance	-2	-4	0	14
	Literature	36	-27	19	13
	Music	5	-2	2	22
	Not art form specific	-2	4	-29	-3
	Not known	-59	-100	0	0
	Theatre	4	0	3	14
	Visual arts	-2	-2	-4	24
	Music	0	0	0	0
Total		3	-2	1	14
North East	Combined arts	57	-23	50	28
	Dance	19	15	-25	5
	Literature	-19	5	-10	26
	Music	17	0	3	-3
	Not art form specific	1	0	-13	243
	Not known	-58	-100	0	0
	Theatre	6	-7	0	54
	Visual arts	19	-8	12	12

		Estimated changes in amounts awarded (%)			
Region	*Artform*	*From financial year 2005-06 to financial year 2006-07*	*From financial year 2006-07 to financial year 2007-08*	*From financial year 2007-08 to financial year 2008-09*	*From financial year 2008-09 to financial year 2009-10*
Total		12	-6	5	33
North West	Combined arts	5	-40	9	12
	Dance	7	-14	-14	11
	Literature	2	-15	-23	16
	Music	-11	1	5	43
	Not art form specific	130	-56	-26	9
	Theatre	4	-11	0	23
	Visual arts	1	-12	-5	38
Total		8	-20	-2	27
South East	Combined arts	32	-7	17	-5
	Dance	8	-15	-7	32
	Literature	15	-36	27	20
	Music	14	-8	-1	41
	Not art form specific	40	-66	29	-23
	Theatre	11	-5	-18	48
	Visual arts	3	8	-22	37
Total		14	-9	-8	28
South West	Combined arts	36	-30	-7	65
	Dance	16	-23	-6	19
	Literature	-20	-24	-26	106
	Music	6	-8	0	25
	Not art form specific	-21	42	-9	12
	Theatre	-3	-9	17	23
	Visual arts	9	-9	-8	30
Total		6	-12	1	31
West Midlands	Combined arts	14	-11	0	28
	Dance	7	1	-2	13
	Literature	3	-26	-32	43
	Music	13	-6	0	15
	Not art form specific	73	-53	-3	-9
	Theatre	5	-1	2	5
	Visual arts	2	-15	13	7
Total		9	-7	1	10
Yorkshire and The Humber	Combined arts	31	-16	16	24
	Dance	-5	-1	5	19
	Literature	46	-23	-16	26
	Music	10	-3	2	15
	Not art form specific	90	-64	53	20
	Theatre	5	-11	5	14
	Visual arts	13	-15	10	44
Total		11	-11	6	20

Broadcasting: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 132W, on broadcasting: Scotland, for what reasons he rejected the recommendations of Ofcom in respect of the award of qualified independent producer status to Scottish Television. [27170]

Mr Vaizey: The recommendation from the Digital Britain White Paper is not being taken forward because, on balance, the potential benefits of implementing the proposal do not outweigh the likely negative effects, particularly on the existing Scottish independent production sector.

Departmental Degrees

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 604W, on Departmental degrees, what information his Department records on the qualifications and expertise of its staff. [27130]

John Penrose: At present the Department does not systematically store this information, although recent IT upgrades should enable us to do so in the future. Currently there is no requirement to hold information relating to staff qualifications or expertise on their personal files unless the member of staff has been recruited into a specialist position. Some staff files will contain this information, but to extract the information manually would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25975]

John Penrose: From May 2010 to 12 November 2010, 79 (73.1%) of the questions tabled to the Department for answer on a named day were answered on time. Named day questions cannot be answered before the named day given by the Member.

All named day questions tabled to the Department for answer by 18 November have received a substantive answer.

The Government have agreed a process with the House (through the Procedure Committee) that detailed information on 2009-10 performance will be provided to the Committee shortly.

The Department do not record the costs incurred by answering a named day parliamentary question. We do however apply a cost limit of £800 when providing each answer.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25976]

John Penrose: From May 2010 to 12 November 2010, 444 (82.4%) of the questions tabled to the Department for ordinary written answer were answered within seven days of tabling and 95 (17.62%) were answered within 14 days of tabling.

All ordinary written questions tabled to the Department for answer by 18 November have been answered.

The Government have agreed a process with the House (through the Procedure Committee) that detailed information on 2009-10 performance will be provided to the Committee shortly.

The Department do not record the costs incurred by answering an ordinary written parliamentary question. We do however apply a cost limit of £800 when providing each answer.

Olympic Games 2012

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the likely sale price of a post-conversion *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three-bedroom flat in the Olympic Village. [26478]

Hugh Robertson: While assumptions have been made regarding the overall potential income from sales, it is not possible, at this time, to estimate accurately the likely sale price of individual homes in the Olympic Village. The price of residential units will be dependent on the state of the housing market at the time of sale.

Olympic Games 2012: Employment

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of residents of Newham employed as a direct result of the London 2012 Olympics. [26486]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) target is for the Olympic Park construction workforce to be comprised of at least 10-15% of people resident in the five host boroughs, including Newham. Employment figures for the Olympic Park workforce since 2008 show that the host borough workforce has ranged between 18-28%, consistently exceeding the set target. The last reported figures show that during September 2010 6,243 people were working on the Olympic Park. Of these, 484 people were resident in the borough of Newham.

The ODA has recorded cumulative figures on the Olympic Park since April 2008 and on the Olympic Village since April 2010. These show that during these periods 26,930 people have worked on the Olympic Park and/or Olympic Village for five days or more. Of these, 1,909 have been resident in the borough of Newham.

Residents of the host boroughs have benefited from priority access to training and vacancies on the Olympic Park, with vacancies offered exclusively and equally to each of the five host borough employment brokerages and Jobcentre Plus (JCP) offices in the area for a period of 48 hours.

Radio Frequencies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will re-issue those licences for radio frequencies held by the parent company of Heart Radio where local radio stations have been closed. [25885]

Mr Vaizey: Decisions on radio licensing are a matter for Ofcom. However, we are not aware of any current plans to re-issue the licences of Global Radio, which owns the Heart network, except where any licences are due to expire.

Royal Parks Agency

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what objectives he has set for the Royal Parks Agency for the next five years. [26770]

John Penrose: The Royal Parks' corporate objectives, which the Secretary of State has approved, are:

1. Conserve and enhance the natural and built environment, historic landscape and bio-diversity of the parks for the benefit of current visitors and future generations.

2. Deliver a broad array of activities and amenities for our diverse audiences.

3. Improve organisational effectiveness and deliver better value for money.

He also agrees the agency's key performance targets annually. For 2010-11 these are:

1. Maintain Green Flag status in all parks.

2. Maintain ISO 14001 for environmental quality.

3. Recycle 90% of uncontaminated green waste by volume.

4. Increase cultural offer by delivering a London 2012 Inspire Programme major arts event, to coincide with the London 2012 Open Weekend.

5. Generate an earned income, including donated assets, of £13 million.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what guidance he has issued to the Royal Parks Agency on the holding of large-scale commercial events in the Royal Parks. [26771]

John Penrose: The Chief Executive has operational responsibility for events in The Royal Parks. The Secretary of State has not issued specific guidance but the Royal Parks has published a Major Events Strategy which is available on its website:

http://www.royalparks.org.uk/docs/Major%20Events%20Strategy%202008%20-%202012.pdf

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been paid to each Member representing Sinn Fein under each category of Parliamentary allowance in each financial year since the date of the Resolution of the House authorising payment of allowances to Members who have not taken their seats. [27273]

Sir George Young: The information relating to the years 2001-02 to 2008-09 is available through the parliamentary website at:

http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/members-allowances/house-of-commons/house-of-commons-scheme-guides/hocallowances07/members-allowance-and-travel-breakdown-/

The data for 2009-10 will be published online in due course as part of the House's publication scheme. I have also placed this information in the House of Commons Library.

Oral Questions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Leader of the House if he will ensure that the number of different bodies answering questions for oral answer on the same day does not exceed the number of questions an hon. Member is entitled to submit for oral answer on that day. [26729]

Sir George Young: The current rota for oral questions operates on a five-week cycle of 20 sitting days. On two of these days, the number of bodies answering questions for oral answer exceeds the maximum number of questions which an hon. Member is entitled to submit for answer on the same day:

(a) on one Monday when questions to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are followed by combined questions to the Leader of the House and the House of Commons Commission; and

(b) on one Tuesday when questions to the Deputy Prime Minister are followed by questions to the Attorney-General, which are in turn followed by combined questions to the Church Commissioners, the Public Accounts Commission and the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission.

The number of different bodies answering questions on the same day could be reduced to two only by reducing the frequency with which oral questions are answered, reducing the total number of bodies on behalf of which questions are answered, or reducing the time available for questions to one or more Departments.

I believe that the current arrangements strike the right balance between these different factors.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average cost of re-integrating a former hostile soldier in Afghanistan in the latest period for which figures are available; and under what budgetary headings such expenditure is incurred. [21153]

Dr Fox: The Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) has a budget of US$782 million for a five-year period. The APRP is designed to reach 4,000 communities in 22 provinces in Afghanistan, at an estimated average cost of $195,500 per community; it is not possible to provide an average per hostile soldier as requested.

It is open to both insurgents and their communities who meet the Afghan Government's conditions: to cut ties with al-Qaeda; renounce violence; and agree to live within the Afghan constitutional framework. The APRP is funded by the international Peace and Reintegration Fund, whose donors include Japan, Germany, US, UK, Spain, Australia and the Republic of Korea, and falls under the overall decision-making authority of the Peace and Reintegration Programme's Joint Secretariat.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel injured during operations in Afghanistan were from Northern Ireland. [26674]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence is unable to identify Service personnel that are from Northern Ireland or that currently reside in Northern Ireland, as for most Service personnel the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system (the military personnel database) holds information on individuals' stationed location and not their residential address. This information could be obtained only through a manual search of every personnel record, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Eric Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many armed forces personnel have been diagnosed with *(a)* active and *(b)* latent tuberculosis following a tour of duty in Afghanistan since 2001; [26889]

(2) whether armed forces personnel retiring from tours of duty in Afghanistan are routinely tested for *(a)* active and *(b)* latent tuberculosis. [26890]

Mr Robathan: Armed forces personnel returning from tours of duty in Afghanistan are not routinely tested for either active or latent tuberculosis. Our policy is that all new recruits to the UK armed forces are offered the Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG) tuberculosis vaccine, if they do not have evidence of previous vaccination (e.g. presence of a BCG scar) and no evidence of current immunity to tuberculosis (indicated by the result of a Mantoux Test).

Our records show that we are aware of 11 service personnel identified as having tuberculosis at some point subsequent to their deployment to Afghanistan. It is not possible specifically to attribute a diagnosis of tuberculosis to an operational deployment.

Air Force: Rescue Services

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of RAF Rescue services. [27139]

Nick Harvey: The future of UK-based Search and Rescue Helicopter (SAR-H) flights are being considered in the review of the SAR-H private finance initiative project which is due to be completed in the near future. Other elements of the RAF SAR Force are subject to further work resulting from the outcome of the strategic defence and security review.

Air Forces: Military Bases

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the defence budget of *(a)* proceeding with the Nimrod MRA4 order and *(b)* maintaining the support base at RAF Kinloss over the next five years and the period over which figures are based. [20370]

Peter Luff: As previously announced, we expect to save in the region of £2 billion over the next 10 years by not bringing Nimrod MRA4 into service. Release of further detail may prejudice the Ministry of Defence's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. The future use of RAF Kinloss is subject to further study as Defence examines the overall basing and estate implications of the strategic defence and security and comprehensive spending reviews (including the move back to the UK of the Army in Germany). The outcome of this complex piece of work is not expected until spring 2011.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his plans for the implementation of the re-basing of military personnel in Germany; and whether he has made an estimate of the costs to his Department on such re-basing. [27141]

Nick Harvey: Detailed work on how the re-basing will be implemented is under way as part of a wider analysis of the overall Defence basing and estate implications of the comprehensive spending review and strategic defence and spending review. No decisions are expected before spring 2011.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many accommodation units of each (a) type and (b) number of bedrooms his Department owns in each location in Argyll and Bute constituency; and whether each such unit is occupied. [27259]

Mr Robathan: There are currently around 2,260 single living accommodation bed spaces at HM Naval Base Clyde. Records do not indicate whether a bed space is occupied at any point in time.

There are a total of 515 service family accommodation properties at HMNB Clyde, broken down as follows:

Type	*Number of bedrooms*	*Total*	*Occupied*	*Not occupied*
Officers				
II (Rear Admiral, Commodore)	2 x double, 2/3 x single	5	5	0
III (Captain RN, Commander)	2 x double, 2 x single	38	24	14
IV (Lt Commander)	2 x double, 2 x single	16	5	11
V (Lieutenant and below)	2 x double, 1 x single	30	25	5

Type	*Number of bedrooms*	*Total*	*Occupied*	*Not occupied*
Other ranks				
D	3 x double, 1 x single	36	28	8
C	2 x double, 1 x single	244	173	71
B	2 x double	146	98	48

In addition, there are a further 80 void maisonettes at Rhu, 48 of which are type D and 32 type V. These are not currently occupied by families.

There are currently around 2,260 single living accommodation bed spaces at HMNB Clyde. Records do not indicate whether a bed space is occupied at any point in time.

There are a total of 515 service family accommodation properties at HMNB Clyde, broken down as follows:

Type	*Number of bedrooms*	*Total*	*Occupied*	*Not occupied*
Officers				
II (Rear Admiral, Commodore)	2 x double, 2/3 x single	5	5	0
III (Captain RN, Commander)	2 x double, 2 x single	38	24	14
IV (Lt Commander)	2 x double, 2 x single	16	5	11
V (Lieutenant and below)	2 x double, 1 x single	30	25	5
Other ranks				
D	3 x double, 1 x single	36	28	8
C	2 x double, 1 x single	244	173	71
B	2 x double	146	98	48

In addition, there are a further 80 void maisonettes at Rhu, 48 of which are type D and 32 type V. These are not currently occupied by families.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel at each rank there were in financial year 2009-10. [26364]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 25 November 2010]*: The Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) publish the United Kingdom Defence Statistics each year. This is available in the Library of the House and Chapter 2 contains the number of personnel in each rank as at 1 April since 1997.

In the DASA Publication TSP 09, also available in the Library of the House, the number of personnel in each rank and by service as at 1 April since 2006 is listed on page 6.

The full documents can also be found at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens of the Republic of Ireland have been recruited into each of the armed services in each of the last five years. [26675]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA333, in another place, to the noble Lord, Baron Dubs of Battersea.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many foreign services personnel are affected by the post-1978 service rule relating to pension entitlements of post-retirement servicemen's widows; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of rescinding that rule in 2011-12. [26542]

Mr Robathan: The information on the number of widow(er)s who are not eligible for a pension is not held. Consequently we are also unable to estimate costs.

Armed Forces: Young People

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of regulations limiting the rights of discharge of under 18-year-olds from the armed services on the UK's compliance with the provisions of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 29 on forced labour. [27374]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not consider the regulations governing the rights of discharge for those under the age of 18 years to be in breach of the International Labour Organisation Forced Labour Convention.

Atomic Veterans and the Health Protection Agency's Mortality Study

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on atomic veterans and the Health Protection Agency's mortality study; and if he will make a statement. [26604]

Mr Robathan: Defence Ministers have held no recent discussions with the Department of Health on atomic veterans and the Health Protection Agencies (HPA) mortality study. Ministry of Defence Officials have recently discussed future options for renewal of the database contract it has with the HPA which supports this study.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 325-26W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton).

AWE Aldermaston

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the proposed new hydrodynamic facility Hydrus at AWE Aldermaston. [26417]

Peter Luff: The recently signed treaty with France agreeing to the joint construction and operation of a new hydrodynamics facility at Valduc in France, and a technology development centre at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in the UK means that plans for a UK-only facility at AWE Aldermaston—project Hydrus—will not now proceed as originally envisaged. However, the full implications for Hydrus and the means of transitioning to the planned new joint facilities are under review.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of building and operating the proposed new *(a)* EPURE nuclear warhead testing facilities at Valduc in France and *(b)* TEUTATES technology development centre at AWE Aldermaston. [26418]

Peter Luff: The design, construction, operating and dismantling costs of both EPURE and the technology development centre will be shared equitably by the UK and France. This co-operation has the potential to save considerable sums for both parties compared to developing separate national facilities. However, due to the immaturity of present cost estimates and the need to protect commercial sensitivities I am unable to be more specific at the present time on the potential cost to the public purse.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to submit planning applications for *(a)* the proposed Anglo-French Teutates Technology Development Centre and *(b)* the new solid intermediate level waste treatment plant at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston to the local planning authority. [26597]

Peter Luff: Planning for the proposed Anglo-French Teutates technology development centre and the new solid intermediate level waste treatment plant at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston is at an early stage. It is, therefore, too soon to define what planning approvals will be necessary. The Ministry of Defence, however, will ensure compliance with all legislative requirements including the Town and Country Planning Act (1990).

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has allocated in grants for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to allocate for 2011-12. [25814]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 22 November 2010]*: The departmental figures for FY 2009-10 are the outturn; for FY 2010-11 the figures are forecast payments to be made this financial year. The funding allocation for the forward year has still to be agreed.

		£ million
Name of grant/grant in aid	*FY 2009-10*	*FY 2010-11*
Veterans Challenge Fund	0.401	0.280
Armed Forces Day	0.280	0.290
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association—tri-service activities	112.051	105.489
Sports Board—in support of tri-service activities	0.770	0.811
Museums, e.g. Army, Air, Navy	20.134	20.568
Welfare Grants	2.350	2.457
St Clement Danes Church	0.010	0.020
Royal Navy Historic Flight	0.220	0.225
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	47.845	44.641
National Memorial Arboretum	0.511	0.523
Grants to the Royal British Legion	0.181	0.115
Scott Polar Research Institute	0.035	0.035
Skill Force	0.250	Closed
Gurkha Welfare Trust	0.938	1.155
Royal Hospital Chelsea	10.824	10.838
Royal Irish Benevolent Fund	0.124	0.127
Council of Voluntary Welfare Work in Germany (Welfare Council)	0.030	0.031
RMB Chivenor Nursery	0.015	0.015
Duke of York's Royal Military School	—	0.786
The Victoria and George Cross	—	0.040

Departmental Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual salary equivalent has been for Territorial Army *(a)* privates, *(b)* lance corporals, *(c)* corporals and *(d)* sergeants on operational deployments in each of the last five years. [26284]

Mr Robathan: Data on actual payments to all individual TA soldiers deployed over the last five years are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows equivalent annual salaries based on the pay bands for Infantry personnel in the relevant ranks. For mobilised Territorial Army (TA) personnel, the pay bands are the same as for their Regular Army counterparts. There are a number of levels within each pay band, and the figures in the table represent broadly the middle of the range for a typical Regular soldier.

					£
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Private	16,005	16,545	17,152	17,605	17,957
Lance Corporal	23,535	24,328	25,128	25,887	26,405
Corporal	27,057	27,970	28,951	29,761	30,357
Sergeant	30,711	31,746	32,860	33,780	34,456

The actual amount paid to each, individual would depend on a number of factors, including the length of mobilisation. Typically, a TA soldier will receive eight months' salary, based on a six-month deployment, one month of pre-tour training and one month of post-tour leave.

In addition to the basic salary, a mobilised TA soldier may also be entitled to claim the following allowances in accordance with the regulations applicable to Regulars, the sums for which are shown at daily rates:

					£
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Operational allowance	14.51	14.51	14.51	14.51	29.02
Longer separation allowance (level 1 of 15 levels)	6.02	6.22	6.38	6.56	6.69
Unpleasant work allowance (level 1 of 3 levels)	2.25	2.32	2.38	2.45	2.50
Unpleasant living allowance	—	—	—	—	3.34

In cases where mobilised TA soldiers' military pay, less operational allowance, falls short of what they would be paid in their regular employment, they are entitled to claim the difference subject to an upper daily limit of £822 per day for medical consultants whose TA service is within the Defence Medical Services as a consultant, and £548 per day for all other reservists.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many redundancies will arise as a result of the closure of the four regional divisional headquarters; and whether such redundancies are included in the 25,000 civilian staff redundancies announced in his Department's strategic defence and security review; [26296]

(2) how many regional brigade headquarters will close as a result of the implementation of the proposals of his Department's strategic defence and security review; how many redundancies will arise as a result of the closures; and whether such redundancies are included in the 25,000 civilian staff redundancies announced in the strategic defence and security review. [26298]

Nick Harvey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 370W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow South West (Mr Davidson). The detailed work of the project team continues and is not due to conclude until the middle of next year. It is too early to say, therefore, what redundancies might arise as a result of the closures of four divisional headquarters and at least two regional brigade headquarters.

I can confirm, however, that any civilian staff redundancies that do arise will be included in the 25,000 civilian staff reductions announced in the strategic defence and security review on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 797.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many redundancies will arise from reducing the communications and logistics support to Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps; and whether such redundancies are included in the 25,000 civilian staff redundancies announced in his Department's strategic defence and security review; [26299]

(2) how many redundancies will arise from the conversion of the second of the operational divisional headquarters to a force preparation role; and whether such redundancies are included in the 25,000 civilian staff redundancies announced in his Department's strategic defence and security review. [26300]

Nick Harvey: Implementation of the strategic defence and security review began in the autumn and will continue into 2011, using the strategy for defence and planning round processes and the work of the defence reform unit. Detailed planning and analysis is still under way, and it is too early to say how many redundancies might arise from the reduction in communications and logistics support to Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps or as a result of the conversion of the second of the operational divisional headquarters to a force preparation role.

I can confirm, however, that any civilian staff redundancies that do arise will be included in the 25,000 civilian staff reductions announced in the strategic defence and security review on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 797.

Departmental Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 597W, on departmental research, what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on research and development in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [27133]

Peter Luff: At present, the Ministry of Defence expects that the research budget will rise slightly in cash terms over the comprehensive spending review period. However, no final decisions have been taken on the level of research and development funding in the Ministry of Defence's planning round 2011 programme which is expected to conclude in early 2011.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on other countries fulfilling the role that would have been performed by Nimrod MRA4 aircraft. [27142]

Peter Luff: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W, and to the hon. Members for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann) and for North Durham (Mr Jones).

Nuclear Submarines

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the design life is in effective full-power years of the PWR2 *(a)* reactor pressure vessel and *(b)* nuclear steam raising plant. [26419]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 38W.

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* contracts have been signed and *(b)* other agreements have been made with (i) BAE and (ii) other companies in respect of the Future Submarine Programme. [26414]

Peter Luff: Contracts to support the Concept Phase of the Future Submarine Programme have been signed with BAE Systems Marine Ltd, Babcock (Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd) and Rolls-Royce Power Engineering plc.

Other contracts to support the concept phase have been placed with companies including QinetiQ, Deloitte and Wragge & Co Limited Liability Partnership. It is not possible to provide details of all of the smaller value contracts placed by the Ministry of Defence as this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In addition, contracts for the design of a common missile compartment have been placed with Electric Boat by the United States Government.

Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much additional funding his Department plans to allocate for the purposes of enhancing simulated training, as referred to in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, in each year of the spending review period. [26680]

Nick Harvey: The strategic defence and security review announced that there would be enhancements to simulated training to produce a more efficient and cost-effective training environment. The Ministry of Defence is in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in early 2011.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional funding his Department plans to allocate for the development of and use of *(a)* sensors and *(b)* nanotechnology in each year of the spending review period. [26682]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review made clear that we will continue the most essential investment in science and technology, which will include focusing investment on developing capabilities in key areas, such as, sensors and nanotechnology. The Ministry of Defence is in the process of completing its annual planning round which will allocate programme budgets. This is expected to conclude in early 2011.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional funding his Department plans to allocate to increase the Government's capacity to respond to civil emergencies in each year of the spending review period. [26683]

Nick Harvey: As set out in the strategic defence and security review, the Government consider it a priority for the UK to be resilient to all kinds of emergencies. Defence has a long standing record of providing assistance in the event of a civil emergency, providing specialist capabilities which may not be available in the civil community or augmenting civil capacity if it is overwhelmed by the scale of an event. Military assistance is normally provided on a reimbursement basis at the request of, and in support of, other Government Departments.

Rescue Services

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what alternative options for meeting the search and rescue requirement his Department considered as part of its review of the search and rescue helicopter programme. [26659]

Peter Luff: The review of the search and rescue helicopter project is considering a full range of alternative options including extending the current capability, acquisition of capital assets, and shorter and longer term service arrangements to meet the UK helicopter search and rescue capability. Until this is concluded it would be inappropriate to comment further on any specific aspects of the review.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of extending beyond 2016 the life of the Sea King helicopters currently used by the RAF and Royal Navy for search and rescue operations. [26660]

Peter Luff: Extending the current search and rescue Sea King helicopters is being considered as part of the Review of the search and rescue helicopter project. Until this is concluded it would be inappropriate to comment on any specific aspects of the review.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on Sikorsky's programme to extend the life of the US variant of the Sea King helicopter; whether his review of the search and rescue helicopter programme took account of that information; and if he will make a statement. [26661]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on a Sikorsky programme to extend the life of the US variant of the Sea King helicopter. The UK Sea Kings were built and are supported by AgustaWestland and the review of the search and rescue helicopter project includes consideration of extending the life of these helicopters.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of the proposal to de-militarise the search and rescue helicopter programme on *(a)*

RNAS Culdrose, *(b)* RAF Chivenor, *(c)* RAF Boulmer, *(d)* RAF Leconfield, *(e)* RAF Wattisham, *(f)* RAF Prestwick, *(g)* RAF Valley and *(h)* RAF Lossiemouth; and if he will make a statement. [26662]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister responsible for defence personnel, welfare and veterans the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan) on 19 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 968W, to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth).

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value was of contractual liabilities incurred by his Department in respect of Soteria at the time of the suspension of the search and rescue helicopter programme. [26666]

Peter Luff: Soteria is the Preferred Bidder for the search and rescue helicopter project and there are no contractual liabilities as no contract has been awarded.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the range is of the helicopter selected by Soteria for the search and rescue (helicopter) requirement; and whether that helicopter has an in-flight refuelling capability. [26667]

Peter Luff: The maximum range of the Sikorsky S92 helicopter in search and rescue configuration is 634 nautical miles. This more than meets the search and rescue helicopter coverage requirement for the UK. Therefore an in-flight refuelling capability is not required.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of the withdrawal of Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft on the *(a)* required fleet mix for the search and rescue helicopter programme and *(b)* operational capabilities of the helicopter platform selected by Soteria. [26668]

Peter Luff: The search and rescue helicopter requirement is not dependent on the Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft and there are no plans to change it as a result of not bringing the Nimrod into service.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft play in maritime search and rescue missions; and if he will make a statement. [26670]

Peter Luff: None. Although the Nimrod MR2 was designed to undertake a wide variety of roles including a long-range search and rescue capability, it was withdrawn from service in March 2010. Following the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Nimrod MRA4 will no longer be brought into service. The UK will continue to provide search and rescue services using a range of assets depending on the response required.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects his Department's review of proposals for helicopter search and rescue under the Private Finance Initiative to be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [27373]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister responsble for defence personnel, welfare and veterans the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan) on 19 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 968W, to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth).

Special Forces: Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional funding his Department plans to allocate to the Special Forces in each year of the spending review period. [26681]

Nick Harvey: The recently published strategic defence and security review highlighted the contribution of our Special Forces to a wide range of intervention operations and the vital support they provide to stabilisation operations and other commitments. We have taken the decision to provide further investment in this area to significantly enhance support capabilities. Following the long-standing precedent regarding Special Forces, no further details will be provided to help to protect operational capability.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review, whether his Department has made an estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from the rationalisation of wider equipment holdings in light of experience on operations and fleet management during the comprehensive spending review period. [26302]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the strategic defence and security review for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trade unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity and health and safety. The MOD is therefore not able to release more detailed figures at this time.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many submissions to the strategic defence and security review his Department received from the general public; [26311]

(2) how many submissions to the strategic defence and security review from members of the public were *(a)* read, *(b)* acknowledged and *(c)* replied to substantively. [26960]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence received over 1,000 letters from the public on aspects of the strategic defence and security review during the period of the review. All were read on receipt, and either have received or will receive replies.

These are in addition to over 6,000 responses from industry, public submissions to the Cabinet Office Coalition Partnership Agreement, academics, Members of Parliament, members of the armed forces, and public servants within and beyond Defence.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all meetings on the strategic defence and security review attended by Ministers in his Department were minuted. [26313]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* All meetings of the Defence Strategy Group, which I chaired, were minuted. There was also an ongoing dialogue between Ministers and service chiefs outside the Group which did not require a formal record.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what training schemes will be deleted to find efficiencies in military training, as referred to in the strategic defence and security review; [26678]

(2) what enhancements his Department plans to make to simulated training, as referred to in the strategic defence and security review. [26679]

Nick Harvey: We will enhance the training environment and use the most effective method of preparing our armed forces for what we ask them to do. This will mean that some outdated training methods will be replaced by modern simulators and training techniques, but we do not plan to delete whole training schemes unless there is no longer a need for them.

Surveillance

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with its US counterparts on co-operation on surveillance platforms. [26303]

Peter Luff: Ministers and officials from both countries regularly discuss co-operation on surveillance platforms.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment his Department has made of the UK's surveillance needs up to 2020; [26304]

(2) what arrangements his Department has put in place to ensure the UK can meet its surveillance needs up to 2020. [26305]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review reviewed the UK's capability requirements, including airborne surveillance, through to 2020. To meet them a number of projects at various stages of maturity are currently under way. These include projects to deliver and/or support unmanned systems such as Watchkeeper, and manned platforms such as E-3D Sentry, Rivet Joint and the replacement for the Sea King Mk 7 Airborne Surveillance and Control helicopter. We are content that we have adequate surveillance capability up to 2020.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with its French counterparts on co-operation on surveillance platforms. [26306]

Peter Luff: Following the announcement at the UK-France Defence and Security Co-operation summit on 2 November that we had agreed to collaborate on the assessment phase of the next generation of Medium Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Air Surveillance Systems; our officials are working together to agree joint requirements and plans.

Territorial Army

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 565W, on the Yorkshire Regiment, what other roles have been suspended from Territorial Army infantry units. [26645]

Mr Robathan: In the light of current operational requirements, the Territorial Army Infantry's Javelin (anti-tank) role has also been suspended.

World War II: Anniversaries

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparations his Department has made in respect of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain; and if he will make a statement. [24892]

Mr Robathan: In conjunction with Service charities, veterans' organisations and associations, the Royal Air Force developed a comprehensive series of events to commemorate and celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain culminating in September this year. The key tenet that underpinned these events was to allow veterans to participate as fully as possible in this anniversary. Events were held all over the country but the principal events of celebration were the unveiling of a memorial statue to Sir Keith Park in Waterloo Place on 15 September and a Service of Commemoration and Dedication held in Westminster Abbey on 19 September.

The RAF is considering the appropriate level of commemoration for the 75th anniversary of this historic event in 2015 but it is too early to confirm any plans at this point.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Savings Programme: Consultation

Thomas Docherty: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, which representative bodies of *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* hon. Members' staff and *(c)* staff of the House were consulted before the proposals in respect of the House's savings programme were communicated. [26723]

John Thurso: Following the Commission's request to the Management Board to develop savings options, consultation on the Management Board's list of possible initial savings is currently under way involving all of the groups referred to in the hon. Member's question. The list was sent first to the Finance and Services Committee. The Chair of the Finance and Services Committee wrote to hon. Members on 15 November seeking their views and also wrote to the Administration, Liaison and Procedure Committees; the Management Board has held all-staff meetings for House staff in addition to intradepartmental meetings; and views are actively being sought from trade unions and Members' staff representative bodies.

10:10 Campaign

Simon Hughes: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the House of Commons Commission plans to participate in the 10:10 campaign to reduce its carbon emissions by 10% in one year; and if he will make a statement. [26759]

John Thurso: The Commission applauds the aims of the 10:10 campaign, and recognises the significance of the targets it promotes, but does not plan to join it. In October 2009 the Commission agreed it should avoid lending the House's name to particular campaigns and should participate only in exceptional circumstances.

The House has set a target to reduce its carbon emissions from energy by 7% by 2010-11, relative to 2008-09. In the 12 month period to the end of October 2010 the House has recorded a 5.6% reduction in its carbon emissions.

Utilities

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the combined cost of heating and water utilities was for the House of Commons portion of the Parliamentary Estate in each year since 2005. [26015]

John Thurso: The cost of heating alone cannot be provided as electricity and gas charges include heating, hot water and catering usage and cannot be broken down into these categories.

The water and sewerage charges paid by the House of Commons for its portion of the Estate for each financial year since 2005 are as follows.

	£
2005-06	312,100
2006-07	278,800
2007-08	318,800
2008-09	256,900
2009-10	195,800

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25987]

Mr Charles Walker: The Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority agreed on 30 June 2010 to accept questions for written answer with effect from 5 July 2010. The Speaker's Committee for the IPSA keeps statistics on the numbers of questions dealt with in order that the procedures of the Speaker's Committees should remain broadly consistent with each other.

Since 5 July there have been 41 named day questions to the Committee, of which 32 (78%) were answered substantively on or before the day named; all named day questions tabled between May and 12 November have received substantive answers.

Neither the Speaker's Committee nor the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made an estimate of the average cost of answering a named day question on the day named for answer but it is noted that HM Treasury has established the cost of a written PQ as £149.00:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for ordinary written answer since May 2010 were answered within *(a)* seven days and *(b)* 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25988]

Mr Charles Walker: The Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority agreed on 30 June 2010 to accept questions for written answer with effect from 5 July 2010. The Speaker's Committee for the IPSA keeps statistics on the numbers of questions dealt with in order that the procedures of the Speaker's Committees should remain broadly consistent with each other.

Since 5 July there have been 95 questions for ordinary written answer to the Committee. Of these, 42 (44%) were answered within seven days of tabling (one with additional material supplied 13 days later). 62 (65%) were answered within 14 days of tabling. These periods include non-sitting Fridays, weekends and parliamentary recesses. Two questions tabled between July and 12 November, on 11 November, did not receive substantive answers by 18 November but were both answered substantively on 19 November.

Neither the Speaker's Committee nor the Independent Parliamentary Standards authority has made an estimate of the average cost of answering a named day question on the day named for answer but it is noted that HM Treasury has established the cost of a written PQ as £149.00:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

Email

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what procedure is followed in handling emails sent by hon. Members to the chief executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority; what arrangements are made to ensure that the chief executive sees such correspondence; and what target time is set for the provision of a response. [26780]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking about the procedure for the handling of emails sent to the Chief Executive (26780).

The majority of correspondence sent to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is dealt with by the Information Team, who have the information and the authority to deal with most queries. Members of this team pass on correspondence when appropriate.

Emails sent direct to me, as Chief Executive, are handled according to the nature of the query. Routine queries are passed to the Information Team for reply; complaints are handled under IPSA's complaints procedure; and, in a small number of cases, queries are dealt with either by my office on my behalf, or by me direct.

The overall target for correspondence within the organisation is to resolve 90% within five working days. Correspondence to be answered by me or by my office specifically is, by its nature, more complicated and tends to raise broader policy issues. Consequently, the expectation is that more items in this category will fall outside the overall five-day target.

I approve all letters sent under my name.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future provision of adult education in *(a)* West Ham constituency, *(b)* Newham and *(c)* London. [26272]

Mr Hayes: The newly published strategy for skills, "Skills for Sustainable Growth", is based on the coalition principles of freedom, fairness and responsibility. Funding for adult education will be refocused on those who need it most. Employers and citizens will be asked to take greater responsibility for ensuring their own skills needs are met. And control will be devolved to communities so they can play a greater role in shaping services.

For the 2010/11 academic year, over £567 million has been allocated to further education (FE) colleges and providers based in the London region to support the delivery of post 19 FE and skills provision. This included over £25.5 million for providers based in the West Ham constituency and £722,000 for providers based in the Newham constituency. These figures are drawn from allocations to individual providers based in these areas; the provider could choose to deliver provision in other areas of the country.

As set out in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (16 November 2010), in the 2011-12 financial year we will invest £3.9 billion in post-19 further education (FE) and skills. The allocation of funding for the 2011/12 academic year will be carried out by the Skills Funding Agency, over the coming months, in line with the overall post-19 FE and skills funding envelope.

Agriculture: Research

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research projects designed to assist *(a)* the development of organic agriculture and *(b)* farmers (i) mitigate the effects of and (ii) adapt to climate change have been funded by (A) each research council and (B) the Science and Technology Facilities Council since 1997; what the (1) research topic, (2) start date, (3) cost and (4) project code was of each such project; what the lead institution was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8039]

Mr Willetts: The Biotechnology and Biological Research Council (BBSRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) have funded projects in both areas, and details of these will be placed in the Libraries of the House. Some of the data sets do not run for the full period since 1997; this is because data for the years which are not provided can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) funded two grants since 1997 whose research included GM plants. Details of these will also be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Medical Research Council (MRC) and Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) have not funded any projects of the types listed.

Aimhigher Programme

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many interventions were made by Aimhigher UK in each local education authority area in England in the last year for which figures are available. [26653]

Mr Willetts: Information on the number of interventions made by Aimhigher is gathered by Aimhigher partnerships on an area basis. This information is not disaggregated by local authority area. Information provided by partnerships showing the number of activities in each partnership area in the 2009/10 academic year is summarised in the following table.

In addition, the national roadshow held 4,850 sessions for approximately 70,000 learners. It is not possible to disaggregate this to show the number of learners per partnership area.

The coalition Government are committed to providing a new impetus for social mobility in this country and will be investing in raising the attainment and aspiration of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Universities and schools have learned a lot from the Aimhigher programme about "what works" and can build on this in a way that best supports their pupils and students.

Aimhigher: number of activities by partnership

Partnership	*Number of activities*
Aspire	430
Bedfordshire and Luton	1,528
Berkshire	248
Birmingham and Solihull	1,793
The Black Country	3,283
Cambridgeshire	580
Cheshire and Warrington	291
Coventry and Warwickshire	623
Essex	4,581
Greater Manchester	3,790
Greater Merseyside	988
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,368
Herefordshire and Worcester	444
Hertfordshire	555
Kent and Medway	929
LIFE—Bournemouth and Poole	852
London North West and Central	1,270
London East Thames Gateway	463
London South	783
Milton Keynes	1,156
Norfolk	395
North Yorkshire	1,122
Peninsula	898
Shropshire	300
Staffordshire	1,163
Suffolk	409
Surrey	258
Sussex	5,402
Tyne and Wear and Northumberland	862
Lincolnshire and Rutland	865
Derbyshire	1,339
County Durham	311
Cumbria	480
Lancashire	1,428
Leicestershire	665
Northamptonshire	545
Nottinghamshire	1,039
South Yorkshire	3,590
Tees Valley	1,696
The Humber	1,314
West Yorkshire	2,944
West Area	1,564
Total	54,544

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the satisfaction level among schools participating in the Aimhigher programme. [26663]

Mr Willetts: Research conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) for HEFCE published earlier this year reported that evidence from colleges, schools and academies showed that involvement in the activities provided through Aimhigher was associated with higher than predicted attainment at GCSE and greater confidence among learners that they were able to achieve.

In addition, HEFCE undertook a consultation with 20 schools and academies over the summer. The consultation found that schools and academies valued campus visits and summer schools as having the most impact on learners.

The coalition Government are committed to providing a new impetus for social mobility in this country and will be investing in raising the attainment and aspiration of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Universities and schools have learned a lot from the Aimhigher programme about "what works" and can build on this in a way that best supports their pupils and students.

Apprentices

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to take on apprentices. [25901]

Mr Hayes: We want to make it easier for businesses of all sizes to take on apprentices and access the benefits they can bring to the workplace, which is why one of our first announcements was to redeploy £150 million from Train to Gain to create 50,000 more apprenticeship places. Just last month, we built on this by confirming that we will boost spending on apprenticeships by up to £250 million above the funding inherited from the last Government, before the end of the spending review period.

Small businesses are the cornerstone of our economy and high quality training opportunities like apprenticeships are key to supporting their growth and success. I know that small businesses place great value on apprenticeships and are prepared to invest in them.

Group training models have an important role to play in helping us to reach more small and medium-sized businesses—providing them with a means of sharing the administrative burdens and costs. I am an advocate of the Group Training Association (GTA) model and recently asked the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to look at what they could do to further support the GTA network in England.

Apprentices: Public Sector

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to increase the number of apprenticeships available in the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [26289]

Mr Hayes: As set out in our recently published strategy Skills for Sustainable Growth, this Government are committed to expanding apprenticeships. By 2014-15, we will have in place sufficient funding to train 75,000 more adult apprentices than the previous Government were providing.

While Government funding supports training for apprentices, we rely on employers to make the opportunities available to their new and existing staff. As employer of around one-fifth of the country's work force, the public sector will be a key part of this. Apprenticeships are now available in around 200 job roles and are no longer only about traditional trades in the private sector.

I want to see an increase in public sector apprenticeships because they improve productivity and offer a great way to meet the skills needs of the work force, which will ultimately result in better public service delivery.

However, I do not believe we should try to achieve that through arbitrary central Government targets. Instead, Government should encourage and enable public sector employers to take advantage of apprenticeships. That is why the National Apprenticeship Service has representatives in place in every region of the country to support public sector employers with advice and guidance. We have also ensured that within central Government apprentices are exempt from the civil service-wide recruitment freeze. I was also pleased to offer my support to the Department for Health who announced earlier this month that the NHS apprenticeship programme will receive £10 million to create around 6,000 new NHS apprenticeships.

Business: Departmental Co-ordination

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place for the *(a)* management and *(b)* cross-departmental co-ordination of the Government's relationship with UK FTSE 100 companies. [25417]

Mr Davey: Most day-to-day stakeholder engagement on specific areas of policy development, implementation and review is led by policy officials—this includes but is not limited to FTSE 100 companies. A central stakeholder engagement team is responsible for ensuring that BIS adopts a well co-ordinated approach to engaging with BIS stakeholders. The stakeholder engagement team gives the Department a strategic oversight, ensuring effective use of resource across the Department and its priorities, and identifying gaps and opportunities.

Ministers and senior officials have regular and appropriate contact through co-ordinated and effective visits and events, which CEOs and Chairs of FTSE companies regularly attend.

Across Whitehall, formal and informal networks exist to share information and co-ordinate where issues and policies impact on core stakeholders. This happens at policy level and across stakeholder engagement teams.

Ceramics: Trade Fairs

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will provide assistance to *(a)* Anderen Ltd in Stoke-on-Trent South constituency and *(b)* other ceramics companies to attend the Ceramics China Exhibition in May 2011. [26802]

Mr Prisk: Anderen Ltd is in contact with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), and a UKTI international trade adviser is currently working with them.

Staffordshire chamber of commerce has actively supported the development of international trade opportunities for the ceramics industry in certain key markets, including China. UKTI is currently considering whether or not it will be able to offer support for UK companies to attend the Ceramics China Exhibition in light of the spending review outcome.

Commodities Trading

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the regulation of commodities derivatives trading in the EU. [26[illegible]02]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

There are a number of EU initiatives under way relevant to the regulation of commodity derivatives. These include the review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID), on which a consultation document is expected shortly from the European Commission, and the proposed Regulation on Over the Counter (OTC) Derivatives, Central Counterparties and Trade Repositories. The Government are actively engaged in these processes.

In addition I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 475W, to the hon. Member for Sefton Central (Bill Esterson).

Co-operatives

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made in supporting the creation and expansion of co-operatives; and what his policy is on the provision of Government support for the establishment of new co-operatives. [24898]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to encouraging new and existing businesses to consider the benefits of models, including co-operatives, which enable co-ownership and engagement by employees, customers or wider communities, while acknowledging that such models will not be appropriate for all businesses.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is currently examining the information made available on:

www.Businesslink.gov.uk

to ensure that businesses and other organisations are able to make appropriate choices about the legal forms and ownership structures that best suit their operations.

The Government are also developing a suite of new Rights to Provide for public sector workers to form employee-led mutuals to take over the services they deliver. The Cabinet Office is leading work with Departments to explore in detail how such rights can be applied across the public sector, including by building on the lessons emerging from 12 pathfinder mutuals launched in August. In support of this commitment a number of leading organisations in the mutual sector have now launched a freely available phone and web-based information service for those interested in taking this agenda forward. The Government will announce further progress with this policy in a White Paper on Public Service Reform in early 2011, and will continue to develop the necessary support and guidance in this context.

The Government are also committed to further modernisation of the legislative framework for co-operatives, including by bringing forward the necessary legislation to implement the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act 2010, and by relaying The Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what items of expenditure Ministers in his Department have authorised since his appointment. [21728]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* Expenditure by my Department for both the current and previous Administrations was approved by Parliament through the parliamentary estimates process. Budgets are delegated to the accounting officers of departments by the Treasury in line with the approved estimates. Accounting officers are responsible for expenditure within departments. Some specific items of expenditure have to be individually authorised by Ministers under the legislation relating to that expenditure, or as an HM Treasury requirement.

Since my appointment, Ministers in my Department have authorised the following:

Additional Hours of Advice project—to extend the opening hours within the Citizen's Advice local offices.

Blackpool Leisure Assets—a joint public sector-led proposal to acquire Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens involving the north west development agency.

Bristol and Bath Science Park—a proposal by the south west regional development agency to develop a science park on the home of the National Composite Centre.

The student support grant and loan regulations which are authorised in the summer preceding the academic year to which they apply.

The annual Skills Investment Strategy setting out the allocations for further education for the next financial year.

UK-China links.

Scholarships for service leavers.

Digital life skills.

All proposed consultancy expenditure and expenditure outside the freeze on recruitment and marketing, and remuneration above the Prime Minister's salary.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24383]

Mr Prisk: This Department has not yet revoked any significant regulatory measures. However, we have launched a review of employment law, and are conducting a major fundamental review scrutinising the overall stock of BIS regulation, alongside legacy measures inherited from the previous Administration.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether further education institutions will be required to fulfil any statutory duties under his plans for the Discretionary Learner Support Fund. [26975]

Mr Willetts: As set out in, "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" strategy document, over the next few months we will engage with colleges, training organisations and other stakeholders on how a discretionary learner support fund should be managed in the future. This will ensure the fund recognises the characteristics of different types of learners and identifies the particular delivery arrangements appropriate for the FE and Skills sector. Statutory duties do not apply to this Fund and we have no plans that they will apply in the future.

FE institutions are not required to fulfil any statutory duties in relation to the Discretionary Learner Support Fund and we have no plans that they will be required to do so in the future.

Economic Growth

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date he expects his Department to publish its White Paper on growth. [27475]

Mr Prisk: Returning the UK economy to sustainable growth is the overriding priority of this coalition Government. BIS and HM Treasury are jointly leading work to explore routes to a more balanced and sustainable model for growth. "The path to strong, sustainable and balanced growth" published today (29 November 2010), launched a comprehensive review of the Government's work to encourage economic growth. The review will last the whole Parliament, with a first report by Budget 2011.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on ensuring that Phase 2 of the European Union Emissions Trading Regime allows for the expansion of carbon-efficient UK manufacturing companies. [26586]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The Department had extensive discussions with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and its predecessor DEFRA when setting the UK National Allocation Plan for Phase 2 of the EU Emissions Trading System. The plan includes rules for allocating allowances to significant capacity extensions. The plan was approved by the European Commission prior to the commencement of Phase 2 in 2008.

My officials are in close discussion with DECC and the European Commission to ensure the needs and concerns of carbon-efficient UK manufacturing companies are taken into account in setting the rules for significant expansions in future phases of the EU Emissions Trading System.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Export Credits Guarantee Department is taking to support local businesses to compete in international export markets. [26171]

Mr Davey: ECGD engages directly with exporters, exporter representative bodies and banks that provide export finance to raise awareness of its services and products. ECGD also markets its facilities overseas so that projects sponsors and buyers are aware of the availability of export finance to assist the purchase of supplies from the UK.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the financial benefit to the UK of loans underwritten by the Export Credits Guarantee Department in 2010-11. [26175]

Mr Davey: No specific assessment has been made of the financial benefit to the UK economy of loans underwritten by ECGD in 2010-11, and there are no plans to do so. ECGD's statutory purpose is to support exports which it achieves by guaranteeing loans made available from eligible banks to finance export contracts obtained by UK exporters and insuring exporters against non-payment. Such export contracts benefit the exporters involved and also companies in their supply chains including SMEs. ECGD is tasked to operate so as to break even over time; presently, it is a net financial contributor to the Exchequer.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total risk liability of overseas loans guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department is. [26178]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department's contingent liability in respect of overseas loans it has guaranteed as at 31 October 2010 is £12,329 million.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Export Credits Guarantee Department has allocated to support loans from British banks in 2010-11. [26179]

Mr Davey: ECGD does not allocate any particular amounts to support loans from British banks. It guarantees loans made available by eligible banks to finance specific export contracts obtained by UK exporters according to its risk capacity for a particular country, the creditworthiness of the buyer/borrower and on terms and conditions that are appropriate to the export transaction being financed.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will *(a)* review the operation of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) and *(b)* ask that review to consider the merits of requiring future projects supported by the ECGD to be assessed in relation to environment sustainability and human rights standards. [26369]

Mr Davey: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

The Government have no plans to change to ECGD's role and status.

It is ECGD's policy to comply with international agreements which apply to the operations of Export Credit Agencies. In this respect, ECGD applies the OECD Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits that establishes the basis upon which the environmental, social and human rights impacts of projects must be addressed.

Flexible Working

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consultation his Department has undertaken with the public sector and private sector employers on his plans to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees. [27243]

Mr Davey: I will consult on the extension to the right to request flexible working to all employees in the new year.

Fulbright Commission

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 22 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 959, what legal status the agreement signed on 22 September 1948 establishing the US-UK Fulbright Commission has; whether the agreement constitutes a legally binding treaty; and if he will make a statement. [26892]

Mr Willetts: I confirm that the agreement, as amended, constitutes a legally-binding treaty. While the terms of the agreement are binding, the level of annual funding of the Fulbright scholarship programme is not stipulated in the treaty. The Government support the programme and we are committed to providing it with the best possible settlement.

Further Education: Finance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the proposed reduction in funding available to support students in further education on the number of students who will study at a further education institution in the next academic year; [26506]

(2) if he will undertake an equality impact assessment of the proposed reduction in funding for financial support for students in further education in academic year 2011-12. [26507]

Mr Hayes: As outlined in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Success" published on 16 November 2010 the 2010-11 baseline for adult learner support was £144,398,000, this will increase to £151,398,000 in 2011-12. We have also published an indicative budget for 2012-13 of £163,768,000.

An equality impact assessment for "Skills for Sustainable Growth" and "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Success" was also published on 16 November 2010.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether the methodology used to determine the level of payments from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund will take into account the number of young people in a household who are in further or higher education in the academic year 2011-12; [26508]

(2) whether work-based learners will be eligible to access the Discretionary Learner Support Fund in the 2011-12 academic year; [26509]

(3) whether students who had not completed a course in a previous academic year will be eligible for support from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund in the 2011-12 academic year. [26510]

Mr Hayes: The Government are committed to providing targeted financial support to enable students to access learning and training. "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth", published on 16 November 2010, announced that the current arrangements for learner support will start to change from the 2011/12 academic year. An enhanced discretionary learner support fund will be created within the next two years. We will work closely with the sector on these changes and will announce more detail on the allocation of funds in due course.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on equality of access to further education at *(a)* local and *(b)* regional level of further education institutions making available different levels of funding to assist students. [26512]

Mr Hayes: The equality impact assessment, recently carried out by BIS on the funding systems for 2011/12 and 2012/13, was published following a consultation on the funding process. This can be referred to at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1284-skills-for-sustainable-growth-investing-equality-impact.pdf

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there will be a central appeals system for students who wish to dispute a funding decision in respect of an allocation from their institution's Discretionary Learner Support Fund in the 2011-12 academic year. [26513]

Mr Hayes: Currently, each college has a published policy on how discretionary learner support funds are distributed. Learners who are dissatisfied with that procedure can lodge an appeal using the college's own internal appeal system. If they are still dissatisfied with that outcome they can access/utilise the Skills Funding Agency appeals procedure. It is expected that the same or a similar approach will be adopted for the 2011/12 academic year.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what audit procedures will be put in place in respect of the administration by individual institutions of the Discretionary Learner Support Fund in the 2011-12 academic year. [26514]

Mr Hayes: The Government have announced that the current arrangements for learner support will start to change from the 2011/12 academic year. Providers currently in receipt of Government support must have administrative procedures that record the details of learner applications for financial assistance. They are also required to submit information detailing how funds have been used. The data are used to demonstrate the efficacy of and to demonstrate probity in the use of public funds.

Further Education: Student Numbers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who started a course of study at a further education college in January of each of the last five years. [26430]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of learners participating on further education courses in England by provider type in 2004/05 to 2008/09, the latest year for which full year data are available. Information is not available specifically for starts in January.

Participation on further education courses by provider type, 2004/05 to 2008/09

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
General FE colleges	2,969,300	2,632,200	2,204,300	2,205,700	2,430,600
Total further education	5,712,500	5,022,400	4,231,900	4,360,700	4,837,100

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Information in this table is based on all Government-funded learners.
3. These data include FE, Apprenticeships/Work Based Learning, Adult Safeguarded Learning, Train to Gain and University for Industry funding streams.
4. All further education includes participation in general further education colleges, sixth form colleges, special colleges, private sector/public funded and other public funded providers i.e. local authorities and higher education institutions.
5. Figures for general further education colleges do not include sixth form colleges and special/specialist colleges.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of learners participating in further education is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 16 November 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statistical firstrelease/sfr_current

Further Education: Transport

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made a recent estimate of the average cost of travel per day for a student at a further education institution in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region. [26434]

Mr Hayes: Research published in 2003 estimated the average travel costs per month for all students (young people and adults) attending further education institutions as £42 for full-time students and £21 for part-time students (DFES (2003) A study of learners in further education). No more recent estimate has been made, and no estimate has been made of average travel costs per day by region.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial assistance will be available to help students in further education meet travel costs in the academic year 2011-12. [26435]

Mr Hayes: As outlined in the strategy document, 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', published on 16 November 2010, the current arrangements for learner support will start to change from the 2011/12 academic year. An enhanced discretionary learner support fund will be created within the next two years. We will work closely with the sector on these changes to ensure funds are targeted on helping those learners facing financial difficulties. As with the current funding arrangements, this may include support for travel costs where local authority funding is not available.

Goldsmiths College

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the governance of Goldsmiths College; and if he will make a statement. [26761]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not received any representations on this matter.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research grants has his Department given to Goldsmiths College in each of the last five years; and for what projects. [26762]

Mr Willetts: This Department does not directly provide research grants to Goldsmiths College. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council provided 38 grants for a range of research at a value of £8,368,310 in the period 2005-10.

A full breakdown is as follows.

AHRC awards made at Goldsmiths College 2005 to 2010

Start date	*Principal investigator*	*Department*	*Project title*	*Amount awarded (£)*
1 April 2005	Professor Nicholas Thomas	Department of Anthropology	Melanesian art: objects, narratives and indigenous owners	530,221.00
1 April 2006	Professor Vikki Bell	Department of Sociology	'Justice Demands' and the negotiated process of art-work production in Argentina and Northern Ireland	31,901.00
1 January 2007	Dr Andrea Phillips	Department of Visual Arts	Curating Architecture: researching the influence of architectural ideas in contemporary curatorial practice	153,730.00
1 March 2007	Professor Janis Jefferies	Constance Howard Resource and Research Centre in Textiles	E-Static Shadows	146,873.00
1 September 2007	Dr Nirmal Puwar	Department of Sociology	Noise of the Past	165,938.00
12 January 2009	Professor Robert Gordon	Pinter Centre for Performance and Creative Writing	Beyond the Linear Narrative: Fractured Narratives in Writing and Performance in the Postcolonial Era	402,998.05
1 April 2009	Dr Gavin Butt	Visual Cultures	Performance Matters	349,665.00
			Total	1,781,326.05

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Goldsmiths College received from the public purse in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* students it had in each such year. [26763]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the table.

Total public funding has been defined as: tuition fee categories which are predominantly publicly funded; all Funding Council grants—including grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Training and Development Agency (TDA) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA); and other grants from central Government and public bodies such as local authorities and health authorities, and the EU Commission.

Higher education institutions have many other sources of income, such as research funding and donations so the total income of universities cannot be assumed from this table. More detailed breakdowns of income sources are published by HESA in volumes such as 'HE Finance Plus and Resources of Higher Education Institutions'.

	Public income (£000)	*Academic staff*	*Non-academic staff*	*Total staff (excluding atypical)*	*Higher education students*
2004/05	33,006	370	515	885	[1]7,270
2005/06	37,546	385	480	860	7,400
2006/07	43,539	435	540	970	7,450
2007/08	47,546	565	525	1,090	7,495
2008/09	48,425	585	555	1,140	7,655

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher education students includes postgraduates and undergraduates. Staff and student figures represent headcounts of students, rather than full-time equivalents.

Atypical staff are those whose working arrangements are not permanent, involve complex employment relationships and/or involve work away from the supervision of the normal work provider.

Graduates: Teachers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that lectureships in further and higher education institutions remain an attractive career choice for graduates; and if he will make a statement. [27095]

Mr Hayes: Further education institutions are responsible for recruiting their own staff. Teaching in the FE sector is generally not a choice of first career for graduates. For the majority of teachers and trainers in the sector, it is a second or third career.

The sector requires highly skilled professionals from all walks of working life—plumbers, engineers, technicians, beauty therapists—to have reached the stage of their first career where they have the capability and capacity to train future generations.

Measures have been taken to enhance and recognise professional status. From September 2007 regulations have required all new teachers to the FE sector to be appropriately qualified in their own subject specialism and hold or work towards achieving the required teaching qualifications and gain qualified teaching learning skills (QTLS) status. Around 40% of FE teachers have a degree, but many hold a wide range of other qualifications that are relevant to their area of vocational expertise. Following the completion of their diploma in teaching, the teacher undergoes professional formation to demonstrate effective teaching practice in order to gain full professional status of qualified teacher learning and skills (QTLS) which is conferred by the Institute for Learning (IfL).

Higher education institutions are responsible for recruiting their own staff and promoting higher education as a positive career option, to graduates and others. The higher education sector has published a report outlining the benefits of working on the sector, which is available here

http://www.ucea.ac.uk/objects_store/
where_are_we_now._the_benefits_of_working_in_he.pdf

The report highlighted the quality of working life in higher education and indicated it compared well with other sectors.

However, the UK Government fund a number of dedicated postdoctoral fellowship schemes, notably national academy schemes, such as the University Research Fellowships, Newton International Fellowships, and Dorothy Hodgkins Fellowships, which seek to attract the best early career researchers from around the world to UK institutions. Research Councils UK (RCUK) are also working to ensure the quality of research skills is improved and that researcher training will become increasingly part of mainstream research practise.

RCUK remains fully committed to the maintenance of a high level skills agenda through its research careers activities, support for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. RCUK also recognises significant progress made by the sector since 2002.

Higher Education

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were in higher education in *(a)* England, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* Rossendale and Darwen constituency in each year from January 2005 to January 2010. [25262]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information on the numbers of enrolments from England, Lancashire local authority, and Rossendale and Darwen constituency on higher education courses at UK higher education institutions is shown in the table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency in January 2011. Comparable figures for students enrolled on higher education courses at further education colleges are not available.

The Department has recently received updated postcode information; therefore figures may not match those previously published.

Enrolments[1] from England[2], Lancashire local authority[3] and Rossendale and Darwen parliamentary constituency[3]: UK higher education institutions[4] academic years 2004/05 to 2008/09

Academic year	*England*	*Lancashire*	*Rossendale and Darwen*
2004/05	1,433,010	37,815	2,815
2005/06	1,466,660	38,045	2,860
2006/07	1,461,895	38,710	2,915
2007/08	1,454,995	31,900	2,515
2008/09	1,504,500	34,340	2,765

[1] Covers enrolments to all levels and modes of study.

[2] Covers English-domiciled enrolments.

[3] Excludes those enrolments whose local authority or constituency information could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[4] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Admissions

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people *(a)* from low income families and *(b)* in total resident in (i) West Ham constituency, (ii) Newham and (iii) London attended (A) university and (B) a Russell Group university in (1) 2008, (2) 2009 and (3) 2010. [26492]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for young people from low income families are not available, therefore figures for young people from the bottom four socio-economic classes (SECs) has been provided as an alternative. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011, and for 2010/11 in January 2012.

The Department has recently received updated postcode information therefore figures may not match those previously published. Due to issues with SEC data in 2008/09, figures in the answer are not comparable with SEC data for any earlier years.

Young[1] undergraduate enrolments by socio-economic class (SEC) and type of institution from West Ham parliamentary constituency[2], Newham local authority[2] and London Government office region[2] UK higher education institutions, academic year 2008/09

	SECs 4-7[3]		All enrolments	
	UK HEIs	Russell Group HEIs	UK HEIs	Russell Group HEIs
West Ham	500	35	1,605	140
Newham	1,350	95	4,285	370
London	24,075	3,675	103,935	24,060

[1] Covers enrolments under 21 years old.

[2] Excludes enrolments whose local area could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] For all young undergraduate enrolments, 31% of data on SEC was missing.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Pay

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the salary level of each vice-chancellor of a university. [24171]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold this information centrally. Higher education institutions are required to disclose remuneration of the head of institution in their financial statements.

Illegal Money Lending

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future funding of the illegal money lending project. [26384]

Mr Davey: The future of the illegal money lending project is currently being considered as we work through the implications of the spending review. We have carried out an in-depth evaluation of the project and will work to ensure any future funding builds on the report's recommendations, particularly in terms of securing even greater value for money and strengthen the governance of the project.

Industry: Academics

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the contribution to gross national product generated by collaboration between industry and academia. [25458]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not undertake estimates along the lines requested. However, overall, universities are estimated to be worth £59 billion[1] to the economy, putting the higher education sector ahead of agriculture, advertising, pharmaceutical and postal industries.

[1] "The impact of universities on the UK economy, 4th edition, published in November 2009 by Universities UK"

Internet

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the Government's policy is on the principle of internet neutrality; and if he will make a statement. [26821]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are absolutely committed to an open internet. The internet has brought huge economic and social benefits across the world precisely because of its openness, and that must continue.

The Government expect all operators providing an internet access service—both fixed and mobile—to offer all legal content. Consumers should always be able to access any content or service they want to and content providers and applications should be able to access consumers. ISPs should not be able to discriminate unfairly against services or users. That means no blocking or discriminatory degradation of services or applications for commercial reasons.

There is not yet any evidence that discriminatory practices are emerging, or that there is a problem with regards to how ISPs or networks manage the traffic that flows over them (something they all engage in for technical reasons to deliver the best possible service to consumers). And this is enforced by the initial responses to Ofcom's recent consultation on the issue. In addition, under new provisions in the Electronic Communications Framework review operators must present information about their service, including the nature and extent of their traffic management policies and their impact on service quality in a clear, visible and easy to understand form for all their customers.

A contributing factor to the success of the internet has been the lack of legislative restraints that have been placed on it. It is our belief that improved transparency, along with a competitive market place and the ability to switch providers will mean that regulation in this area will be unnecessary. It is important that we give the market the opportunity to self regulate but Ofcom will closely monitor how the market develops and if it develops in an anti-competitive way it will intervene.

Manufacturing Industries: Qualifications

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to meet demand for manufacturing skills through the Business Improvement Techniques National Vocational Qualification. [26287]

Mr Hayes: The National Vocational Qualification in Business Improvement Techniques is available on the Qualifications and Credit Framework and has been developed with SEMTA, the Sector Skills Council for Engineering, to meet the skills needs of the sector. The Skills Funding Agency has confirmed funding for this qualification for this academic year and plans to confirm future funding arrangements by January 2011.

Office of Fair Trading: Competition Commission

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of merging the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission on the time taken to complete investigatory procedures. [26881]

Mr Davey: In considering merging the Competition Commission with the competition functions of the Office of Fair Trading to create a single competition and markets authority, one of the Government's primary aims is to deliver more streamlined and consistent processes for businesses that are subject to its investigations. The Government will fully consult on their proposals in the new year and will also publish a draft impact assessment for consultation.

Overseas Companies: Taxation

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will bring forward proposals to require UK-based companies to report on their tax liabilities in developing countries; and if he will make a statement; [26288]

(2) what recent progress has been made on implementing country-by-country reporting on the financial affairs of multinational companies. [26290]

Mr Davey: The OECD's task force on tax and development is currently conducting a detailed examination of the issue of country-by-country reporting. This task force is expected to report within a year. The Government support this work and await the outcome. While this work is in progress we remain of the view that voluntary initiatives are effective tools.

In addition the EU Commission has recently launched a public consultation to gather views on financial reporting on a country-by-country basis by multinational companies.

Overseas Students

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many non-EU students studied in the UK in the latest year for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of the contribution to the UK economy of such students in that year; and how much funding universities received from fees paid by such students. [27175]

Mr Willetts: In 2008/09, the latest year for which student numbers data are available, there were 251,310 students. This figure relates to students studying in higher education institutions and comes from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). It does not include students at further education colleges, English language schools and independent institutions.

Limited data are available on the value of international (non-EU) students to the UK economy, particularly for students studying below higher education level. The Department has commissioned research seeking to address this, which is expected to be available early in 2011. Universities UK published a report entitled "The impact of universities on the UK Economy", in November 2009 which indicated that universities received £1.9 billion in funding from international student tuition fees in 2007/08 and estimated that international students contributed a further £2.3 billion to the economy in other expenditure.

A copy of this report has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The £1.9 billion figure from tuition fee funding comes from data collected by HESA. In 2008/09, the latest year for which student numbers data are available, universities received £2.2 billion in tuition fees from non-EU students.

The figures for income from tuition fees and student enrolments refer to the academic year, and not the financial year.

Phoenix Companies

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to restrict the practice of establishing phoenix companies. [27108]

Mr Davey: Financial failure and wrongdoing should not be considered to be the same thing and the current legal framework seeks to strike the right balance between the interests of creditors and the need to promote entrepreneurial activity. A phoenix company does not necessarily involve wrongdoing. When a company fails, it may be that the directors offer the best price for the assets and that is the best deal for the creditors of the failed company. It may also provide opportunities for employees.

However we must have a regime which enables appropriate action to be taken against those who are unfit to have the protection of limited liability. I assure my hon. Friend that we do have in place, and make use of, such a regime.

In 2009-10 an average of just over five directors were disqualified every working day, removing them from the marketplace and making it safer for people to do business.

Post Offices

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of establishing a Post Office Diversification Fund for England akin to those in operation in Scotland and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [25887]

Mr Davey: "Securing the Post Office Network in the digital age" was published on 9 November 2010 and sets out this Government's strategy for the post office network over the spending review period. We are committed to the future of the network, and will develop new revenues for sub postmasters through the Post Office becoming a front office for Government, expanding its financial services offering, and modernising its network. This is supported by £1.34 billion of funding. There are no current plans to provide additional funding for a diversification fund in England.

Post Offices: ICT

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Horizon computer programme; and what *(a)* errors relating to the reconciliation of accounts were reported to his Department and *(b)* remedial action was taken in the latest period for which figures are available. [26688]

Mr Davey: The performance of the Horizon computer system is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd.

I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Research

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to continue to undertake research and development. [27091]

Mr Willetts: This Government are committed to working with partners in industry and academe to enhance the effectiveness of the innovation system to support successful UK innovation and we are considering the recommendations from Sir James Dyson's Report, "Ingenious Britain".

We will consult with business in the autumn on the taxation of intellectual property and the support that R and D tax credits provide for innovation.

We will continue to invest in business led technology innovation where there is greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity through the Technology Strategy Board and will incentivise our universities to work with industry. Through these measures, we are supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and enabling some of them to become the big businesses of tomorrow.

We have also, through the spending review, provided over £200 million to establish a network of technology and innovation centres to help to commercialise new and emerging technologies.

Research: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 753W, on research and development, what his policy is on the EU target of 3% of gross domestic product to be spent on research and development. [27134]

Mr Willetts: The European Council endorsed in June the EU target of spending 3% of EU gross domestic product on research and development by 2020. At the national level we will be monitoring business expenditure on research and development as an indicator of UK research and development activity.

South East England Development Agency

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of assets owned by the South East England Development Agency in Medway following the closure of that Agency. [26130]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on local growth, regional development agency assets and liabilities will be disposed of in line with a clear set of shared principles which include a key aim of achieving the best possible outcome for the region consistent with achieving value to the public purse.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the long-term future of the cap on university tuition fees; under what circumstances higher education institutions may disregard the cap; and how he expects application of the real interest taper to affect *(a)* educational institutions and *(b)* students attending such institutions. [27089]

Mr Willetts: The Government have set out progressive plans for reforms to higher education and student finance to ensure that we maintain England's world class university sector.

We are proposing a basic threshold of £6,000 a year for tuition charges, and it will be up to individual HEIs to decide what they charge up to this level, including whether they charge different levels for different courses.

Universities or colleges wishing to charge students more than £6,000 a year, up to a ceiling of £9,000, will be expected to draw up an access agreement with the Office for Fair Access in order to widen participation in higher education.

We do not believe that our proposals to apply the real interest rate taper will affect educational institutions. The progressive real interest taper will affect those borrowers who are due to repay, and are earning over £21,000. For graduates earning below £21,000, the real rate of interest will remain at zero. For graduates earning between £21,000 and around £41,000, a real rate of interest will be tapered in to reach a maximum of inflation plus 3%, subject to parliamentary approval.

Students: Income

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the average annual income of undergraduate students; and if he will publish the figures his Department collates on undergraduate income. [26689]

Mr Willetts: The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2007/08, published on the 21 April 2009, includes estimates of the income of undergraduate higher education students attending higher education institutions and further education colleges in England and Wales. The full report will be placed in the Libraries of the House and is available on the BIS website:

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedd/publications/d/dius_rr_09_05.pdf

Full-time England-domiciled students' average (mean) total income during the 2007/08 academic year was £10,425. Part-time England-domiciled students received around 30% more than full-timers, on average, with a total income of £13,511—higher due to their greater earnings from paid work during the academic year.

Students: Loans

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely change in credit default rates among further education students resulting from taking out loans to cover the full cost of tuition fees in each of the next three years; and what guidance his Department has issued to further education colleges on steps to mitigate the adverse effects on them of any such change. [26529]

Mr Hayes: "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (16 November 2010) sets out the funding strategy for post-19 further education (FE) and skills. This includes the introduction of new fee loans from the 2013/14 academic year, providing the opportunity for FE learners to access the funds they need to gain intermediate and higher-level skills. We recognise that this is a significant reform and that is why we will over the next few months engage with colleges, training organisations and others on the details of how fee loans will be implemented. The changes will be phased in over the spending review period to provide the sector with sufficient time to plan effectively.

We have however, set out the key principles that we propose to base the implementation of fee loans in FE. One of principles is that the loan will be repaid on an income contingent basis in line with the recently announced approach for higher education fee loans. This includes a repayment threshold of £21,000 and writing off any outstanding loan amount after a period of 30 years.

We have assumed that as with higher education, the repayment of these loans will be handled through HM Revenue and Customs so there will be limited scope for default for those earning over the repayment threshold.

Teesside Cast Products

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions his Department has had with representatives of SSI Ltd on its proposed purchase of Tata Steel Europe's Teesside Cast Products business. [26587]

Mr Prisk: On 8 November I met with Win Viriyaprapaikit, President of Sahaviriya Steel Industries public company limited (SSI).

In addition, since the announcement of the Memorandum of Understanding on the potential sale of Teesside Cast Products was announced on 27 August, the British embassy in Bangkok has had a number of discussions with SSI officials. The new UK ambassador has subsequently met with Mr Viriyaprapaikit here in the UK on 29 October and in Bangkok on 16 November. The ambassador will also be accompanying the Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs on a visit to Teesside Cast Products on 27 November.

Furthermore BIS officials held an introductory meeting with representatives of SSI and their consultants on 26 October and have continued to maintain contact with them as necessary.

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff who are *(a)* employed by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and *(b)* undertaking UKTI-related work for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are based in each country. [25413]

Mr Prisk: UKTI is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent departments—the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI has Overseas Trade Teams in 96 markets representing some 98% of global GDP. The numbers of FCO people directly recorded as working on UKTI activities is shown in the following table (these are shown as full time equivalents).

Market	*FTE slots*
Abu Dhabi	9
Algeria	3.1
Angola	2.2
Argentina	6.95
Australia	29.73
Austria	6.85
Azerbaijan	2.07
Bahrain	4.2
Bangladesh	3.9
Barbados	3.3
Belgium	9.71
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.1
Brazil	37.53
Bulgaria	5.1
Canada	30.15
Chile	6.2
China	109.37
Colombia	5.1
Costa Rica	1.95
Croatia	3.1
Cuba	2.3
Cyprus	3.15
Czech Republic	11.4
Denmark	9.93
Dominican Republic	2.05
Dubai	14
Ecuador	1.7
Egypt	10.9
Estonia	5.5
Ethiopia	2.1
Finland	8.88
France	37.45
Germany	40.98

Market	*FTE slots*
Ghana	4.1
Greece	8.2
Hong Kong	23.37
Hungary	11
Iceland	2.27
India	86.05
Indonesia	12.1
Iraq	4
Ireland	8.5
Israel	7.58
Italy	25.31
Jamaica	3.08
Japan	50.29
Jordan	6.05
Kazakhstan	5.1
Kenya	4.1
Kuwait	7.9
Latvia	3.1
Lebanon	3
Libya	6.1
Lithuania	3.15
Malaysia	17.4
Mexico	29.6
Morocco	5
Netherlands	8.87
New Zealand	6.95
Nigeria	12
Norway	10.27
Oman	6.2
Pakistan	7.97
Panama	2.15
Peru	4.1
Philippines	7.65
Poland	16.93
Portugal	10.2
Qatar	7
Romania	9.48
Russia	29.71
Saudi Arabia	28.1
Serbia	3.45
Singapore	18.47
Slovakia	4.1
Slovenia	2.15
South Africa	21.35
South Korea	20.35
Spain	28.2
Sri Lanka	2.7
Sudan	1.1
Sweden	13.03
Switzerland	10.6
Syria	5.15
Taiwan	17.5
Tanzania	2.1
Thailand	14.67
Trinidad and Tobago	2.65
Tunisia	2.7
Turkey	18.9
Uganda	2.1
Ukraine	3.4
UKREP Brussels	5
United States of America	122.5
Venezuela	5.3
Vietnam	14.15
Yemen	1.05
Total	1,278.55

In the markets where there is no UKTI Trade Team, FCO staff provide political support in-market to UK companies.

Union Learning Fund

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he plans to provide for the Union Learning Fund in each year of the Spending Review period. [26421]

Mr Hayes: The Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation have achieved real success in helping thousands of workers improve their skills, particularly in reaching out to those who are poorly qualified and most in need of support.

In 2009-10 over 233,000 learners in workplaces across the country were helped back into learning by unionlearn and the Union Learning Fund.

That is why we have set out in "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" the Government's commitment to continue to support unionlearn and the Union Learning Fund by investing £21.5 million in the 2011-12 financial year. This will enable unionlearn to build on the impressive track record of union learning representatives and the Union Learning Fund in promoting and supporting learning in the workplace, especially in reaching out to those who are poorly-qualified and most in need of support.

The level of support for the remainder of the spending review period has not yet been decided.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from the public purse was provided to the Union Learning Fund in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [26593]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provides funding to support the Union Learning Fund (ULF) and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation, which administers the fund on behalf of the Department. The main purpose of this budget is to enable trade unions and union learning representatives (ULRs) to work with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning and raise skill levels in the workplace. All ULF projects are bound by contracts with defined learning targets and outcomes and are subject to independent audit. Annual expenditure in each of the last five financial years has been as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	15.4
2006-07	16.9
2007-08	18.4
2008-09	21.4
2009-10	21.5

Unions and their ULRs play a significant role in helping adults, particularly those who are poorly qualified and with no background in continuing their education, to become engaged and more confident with learning and improve their skills. In 2009-10 over 233,000 learners in workplaces across the country were helped back into learning by the Union Learning Fund and union learning representatives.

University and College Union: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received recent reports of allegations of incidents of anti-Semitism in the University and College Union; and if he will make a statement. [26704]

Mr Willetts: I have received no reports of allegations of incidents of anti-Semitism in the University and College Union (UCU).

The UCU, as a trade union, is independent from Government. The UCU is responsible for investigating any allegations of anti-Semitism it receives involving the union.

University Challenge

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the University Challenge projects. [27327]

Mr Willetts: Full details of the spending envelope for higher education, including whether there is an allocation of funds for the 'University Challenge' project will be published in the forthcoming Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) grant letter, which will be issued by January 2011.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Children

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of children in Afghanistan who died before the age of five years owing to factors other than military or terrorist action in the latest period for which figures are available. [26887]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: According to the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007-08 the under-five mortality rate in Afghanistan is 161 per 1,000, which means that five out of every six children are surviving to their fifth birthday. These figures do not discount those children who have died because of military or terrorist action. Official figures are not publicly available.

Africa: Famines

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to promote the application of new agricultural technology to tackle famine in Africa. [26650]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to invest in the development of new agriculture technology and its widespread application in Africa. Speeding up the transfer of technology to farmers, such as new farming techniques and more resilient crops and livestock varieties, is vital in reducing their vulnerability to a wide range of threats.

DFID supports the work of two public-private partnerships, the Global Alliance for Livestock Vaccine and Medicines, and the African Agriculture Technology Foundation which are speeding up the development and marketing of new technology based on existing research. This includes new vaccines for major animal diseases and plant varieties which are drought and pest resistant.

We also support the Research into Use project, which has been successful in working with the private sector to promote the use of new varieties of crops such as maize, beans, cowpea, cassava and sweet potatoes, and improved fertilizer blends in six African countries. It is projected that up to 56 million farmers will benefit from the work of this project.

Agriculture: Food Supply

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the US Administration's policy on agricultural development and food security as part of its Feed the Future initiative. [26165]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State has had a number of discussions with Rajiv Shah, administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, on agricultural development and food security, most recently at the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund at the beginning of October. Discussions have included the US Feed the Future initiative.

We agree with our US counterparts that continued high-level international leadership in this area is important, as is ensuring that efforts to increase agricultural productivity in developing countries leads to a reduction in malnutrition, particularly in pregnant women and young children. We also agree on the importance of being able to demonstrate results from increased donor investment in agriculture and food security.

Departmental Grants

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations were funded by his Department in each of the last two years; how much funding was provided to each in each such year; what conditions were applied to the use of such funding; what the funding was used for in each case; and if he will make a statement. [26706]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports non-government organisations (NGOs) through a range of centrally managed funds and through DFID's country programmes. Details of funds provided to UK-based NGOs in 2009-10 through these different channels can be found in table 19 of Statistics on International Development 2010, which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website. Details of funding to NGOs based in other countries and the specific purpose and conditions attached to all funding to NGOs cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. However, further details of all DFID projects, including those delivered by NGOs, can be found on the project database on our website.

Each of DFID's funding schemes for civil society organisations has different criteria and a specific application process. However once funding has been agreed there are a number of conditions that DFID applies to all NGOs. For example they are required to provide quarterly financial reports, a copy of their annual audited accounts and annual reports detailing progress made against agreed objectives. Funds can be used only to support activities and objectives agreed with DFID. All NGOs are also required to produce a project evaluation and project completion reports.

In addition, the UK Government are introducing a new Aid Transparency Guarantee, which commits us to making our aid fully transparent to citizens in both the UK and developing countries, increasing accessibility and feedback, and pushing our international partners to follow our lead. Under this guarantee we will publish full and detailed information on our projects and programmes on our website—in a standardised, accessible format so that it can be freely used by third parties.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's international development goals of the operation of the US Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. [26403]

Mr O'Brien: The US Securities and Exchange Commission has yet to complete the series of regulatory initiatives required under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that will determine the Act's impact.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether all countries in receipt of developmental aid will receive a cash increase in funding proportionate to the proposed increase in his Department's budget from £7.8 billion in 2010 to £11.5 billion by 2015. [26500]

Mr Duncan: No. The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing all spending through country and regional programmes to ensure we focus our resources where we can achieve the most impact. We will close or reduce the size of programmes where we judge that a country no longer requires substantial aid. The Secretary of State has previously announced that UK bilateral aid programmes in China and Russia will close. Consequently not all countries will receive a cash increase in funding. Allocations to each country will be determined by the conclusions of the Bilateral Aid Review early next year.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on steps to prevent future unstable fluctuations in the price of food in developing countries. [26400]

Mr O'Brien: Food prices are determined by supply and demand. A growing population will increase the demand for food in years to come. Our policy seeks to match this growing demand for food by working with others to increase the supply of food in developing countries at a price that poor people can afford, for example by funding agricultural research.

We also aim to reduce food price volatility by working internationally, particularly with other members of the G20, to liberalise trade and make commodity markets function more efficiently. We are doing this by promoting greater sharing of information on existing stocks, and discouraging disruptive actions such as export bans and panic buying, which limit supplies and drive up prices.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* risk assessment and *(b)* contingency plans he has made in respect of future spikes in the price of food in developing countries. [26401]

Mr O'Brien: The Government monitor international food supplies and price movements carefully. Our current assessment is that despite poor weather in southern Russia and Ukraine earlier this year, other regions of the world did well, and contributed to 2010 having the third largest cereals harvest on record. Global supplies remain adequate to meet expected demand, and available data and past evidence suggest that there is unlikely to be a shortage of food over the coming year. However prices remain higher than they were at the start of the year, reflecting the tighter supply situation.

We are working with others, particularly G20 partners, to seek to avoid a price spike similar to the one seen in 2008. This involves urging greater trade liberalisation, promoting greater sharing of information on existing stocks, and discouraging disruptive actions such as export bans and panic buying, which limit supplies and drive up prices. G8 countries have also pledged to support the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative to increase food supplies in developing countries, and make markets work more effectively. In 2008 high prices affected developing countries differently, and any international response to a further price spike would have to be on a case by case basis.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on food aid in the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. [26405]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) spending on food aid in financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09 was published in the additional tables made available as part of the 2010 edition of 'Statistics on International Development'. This publication and the additional tables are available in the Library of the House and on DFID's website.

In addition DFID made core contributions to a range of multilateral organisations a proportion of which was also spent on food aid programmes.

The relevant figures are reproduced in the following tables:

DFID bilateral expenditure on food aid

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Food aid and food security programmes	19.3	35.8	51.1
Emergency food aid	18.1	11.6	80.3

Imputed DFID share of multilateral expenditure on food aid

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Food aid and food security programmes	26.5	19.2	14.0
Emergency food aid	13.3	27.0	31.7

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of financial speculation on food prices in developing countries. [26406]

Mr O'Brien: While it is impossible to draw definitive conclusions, it is unlikely that financial speculation has a significant effect on food prices in developing countries. Food price movements such as those seen in 2008 can be better explained by other factors such as local supply shortages, low international stocks, uncertainty about the size of the global harvest, a weak dollar, very high energy prices and export restrictions imposed by some countries.

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of threats to food security in developing countries. [26407]

Mr O'Brien: Threats to food security come from a variety of sources, and over different time periods. In the short-term, countries heavily dependent on imports to meet their food supply needs are most vulnerable to price volatility on the international commodity markets. In 2008 this was the case in many West African countries heavily dependent on rice imported from Asia. Countries which are more self-sufficient in food are vulnerable to local harvest failure, as happened in the Sahel earlier this year.

In the longer term, slow economic growth, rising populations, and climate change pose the greatest threats to food security in developing countries. The Government remain committed to improving the food security of developing countries in collaboration with G8 and G20 partners.

Developing Countries: Human Rights

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department makes the allocation of aid to countries conditional on the upholding of standards of treatment of ethnic and religious minorities in those countries. [26340]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a strong commitment to human rights, including equal treatment of ethnic and religious minorities. In taking decisions on the provision of aid to any country, DFID considers the Government's commitment to human rights, poverty reduction, accountability and combating corruption, as well as the level of development and humanitarian need.

DFID is reviewing its bilateral aid programmes to ensure that we target UK aid where it is needed most and will make the most significant impact on poverty reduction. The review will consider which countries should receive aid, how much they should receive and which countries should stop receiving it.

Energy: Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the monetary value of projects in the *(a)* coal, *(b)* oil, *(c)* gas, *(d)* wind, *(e)* solar and *(f)* nuclear energy sectors underwritten by the Export Credits Guarantee Department since June 2010. [26843]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

ECGD did not provide support to any projects in the coal, oil, wind, solar or nuclear energy sectors between June and November 2010. It supported one gas project, the UK contract value of which was £14.47 million.

EU Aid: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has provided funding through the EU aid budget for overseas projects involving the extraction and transport of fossil fuels in the last five years. [26352]

Mr O'Brien: In the past five years, the Department for International Development (DFID) has not given earmarked funds through the European Commission (EC) aid budget expressly for investments in projects for the extraction and transportation of fossil fuels.

DFID has provided capital and funding through the EC which has been pooled with resources from other shareholders and donors. Based on EC reports to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), DFID's share of multilateral net imputed aid marked as Official Development Assistance (ODA) and channelled through the European Commission in the energy sector has amounted to £7.55 million over the last five years for which figures are available (2004-05 to 2008-09): £4.55 million contributed to gas distribution, while £2.99 million contributed to gas-fired power plants.

Palestinians: EU Aid

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the EU donated in aid to the Palestinian territories in each of the last three years; what conditions were applied to such aid; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the President of the European Council and *(b)* Cabinet colleagueson aid to the Palestinian territories; and if he will make a statement. [26705]

Mr Duncan: European Union (EU) financial commitments to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) totalled €518.41 million in 2009, €497.76 million in 2008, and €563.28 million in 2007. EU assistance to the OPTs is funded and disbursed via a variety of instruments and mechanisms. These, together with the policy considerations and any conditions which apply to such funding, are set out on the OPTs pages of the EC website.

Ministers regularly discuss the Middle East peace process and UK support to the OPTs. All UK aid is currently under review. There have been no discussions between Department for International Development Ministers and the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, on aid to the OPTs. UK officials are in regular contact with their EU counterparts regarding their respective aid programmes.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to ensure that (i) financial and (ii) aid donations to the Palestinian territories are used for their intended purposes; and if he will make a statement. [26503]

Mr Duncan: UK aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories is subject to the highest levels of scrutiny. We conduct regular fiduciary risk assessments to assess the risk of funds being misspent and identify appropriate safeguards. Our funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is administered through a World Bank managed trust fund, which strictly controls how funds are used and has stringent audit requirements. For aid other than financial assistance to the PA, we work with all partners on project design to ensure that UK funding will be spent most effectively. Our partners are United Nations agencies and reputable non-governmental organisations with proven track records in effective delivery.

In line with the Department for International Development's (DFID's) commitment to enhance aid transparency and value for money, from January 2011 details of all spending over £500 will be published on the DFID website. Aid projects will also be subject to additional scrutiny by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact which will be set up by June 2011.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to ensure the effective use by the Palestinian Authority of financial assistance from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [26612]

Mr Duncan: Financial assistance from the UK to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is delivered through a Trust Fund administered by the World Bank. This makes disbursements to the PA conditional on progress in reforms to improve the efficiency of spending and reduce their need for aid in the future. The Department for International Development also provides technical assistance to the PA Ministry of Finance to help them strengthen public financial management. In addition, the UK-PA Memorandum of Understanding makes our financial assistance conditional upon the PA meeting benchmarks for reducing poverty, respecting human rights and strengthening public financial management.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated in aid to the Palestinian territories in each of the last three years; whether any conditions were placed on the disbursement of such aid; and if he will make a statement. [26613]

Mr Duncan: UK bilateral aid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) reported in Statistics on International Development 2010 totalled £57.6 million in 2009-10, £41.3 million in 2008-09 and £45 million in 2007-08. This does not include our funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which operates in the OPTs as well as in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Funding to UNRWA was £24.9 million in 2009-10; £19 million in 2008-09; and £15.6 million in 2007-08.

This aid was delivered in line with general UK policy on conditionality, which is that our aid should be based on three partnership principles with partner governments: poverty reduction and meeting the Millennium Development Goals; respecting human rights and other international obligations; and strengthening financial management and accountability, and reducing the risk of funds being misused through weak administration or corruption. We do not use conditions to impose specific policy choices on recipient countries.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation was undertaken before the new Access to Work guidance was issued; and by what mechanisms the effects of the new guidance are being monitored. [26814]

Maria Miller: In February 2009 DWP officials held a series of focus groups across the country with a number of key external stakeholders, including disability charities, business groups and ethnic minority groups about plans to refocus the Access to Work programme. There was general agreement about the value of the service that Access to Work provides but that the programme should be more flexible; more available to those who are in need of most help; and that larger employers could contribute more. These changes were announced in December 2009.

Access to Work guidance has for many years specified that funding cannot be provided for standard equipment that an employer would need to provide for any employee to do their jobs. A revised list of equipment has been included in the most recent version of Access to Work guidance in order to assist advisers in making operational decisions on each case under consideration for funding and help ensure consistency across the country. This list will be updated from time to time to ensure it reflects latest developments. The list of examples provided is not exhaustive and advisers have the discretion to identify other types of equipment as standard for a particular industry or occupation.

The Access to Work programme is kept under constant review, to ensure that it remains effective, efficient and value for money.

Carer's Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of people caring for a person who is receiving the middle rate care component of disability living allowance who are not in receipt of carer's allowance. [16667]

Maria Miller: We are unable to estimate the number of people caring for a person receiving the middle rate care component of disability living allowance who are not in receipt of carer's allowance. This is because estimating the take-up of carer's allowance would require combining information in relation to the carer's allowance eligibility criteria about both the disabled person and their carer, who may not be part of the same household.

To receive carer's allowance, a person must be caring for someone who receives either attendance allowance or disability living allowance care component at the middle or highest rate. In addition, the carer must not have earnings from employment of more than £100 a week after deduction of allowable expenses, and must not be in full-time education. In consequence, receipt of the disability living allowance care component at the middle rate by the disabled person does not necessarily automatically qualify their carer for carer's allowance.

Cold Weather Payments: Westmorland and Lonsdale

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides to *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* benefit recipients and *(c)* other vulnerable individuals resident in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency in meeting the cost of their fuel needs; and what steps he is taking to ensure that people not in receipt of a state pension or other benefit administered by his Department are aware of the help available to them. [26971]

Steve Webb: Pensioners in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency, along with other individuals who have reached women's state pension age, will receive a winter fuel payment to help meet the cost of their winter fuel needs. Households with someone aged up to 79 will receive £250 while those households with someone aged 80 or over receive £400.

Cold weather payments of £25 a week are paid to those on pension credit in periods of very cold weather. Recipients of other income-related benefits such as income-related employment and support allowance may also be entitled to a cold weather payment if they have a pensioner or disability premium included in their benefit, or they have a child who is either disabled or under the age of five in the family.

Disabled people can face extra costs but, by and large, these needs arise all year round. Benefits such as disability living allowance and the disability premiums and elements in the income-related benefits provide additional weekly payments and are related to the individual's circumstances.

We are working to ensure that people are aware of, and take up their entitlements through initiatives such as: using data matching to identify those who may be entitled to, but not currently receiving, benefits; home visits for vulnerable customers; a simple and straightforward claim process; closer working with partner organisations and our media campaigns. For example, an article was published in the Cumberland and Westmorland Gazette on 20 November 2010 reminding people that they will soon receive winter fuel payments and explaining what they should do if they needed to make a claim.

The Department for Work and Pensions also works closely with other Government Departments on the 'Keep Warm Keep Well' campaign, which is aimed at vulnerable households in England and gives information on the health benefits of keeping warm in winter and details of the grants and benefits available.

Communication: Young People

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its non-departmental public bodies spent on *(a)* telecommunications-based, *(b)* literature-based, *(c)* electronic, *(d)* television and *(e)* other campaigns and communications targeted at young people aged between 16 and 24 years in respect of (i) employment, (ii) training opportunities and (iii) welfare in the latest period for which figures are available. [26823]

Chris Grayling: The latest period for which figures are available relating to communications spend by DWP covers April 2010 to September 2010. During this period, DWP spent £6,225 on electronic communications, specifically to engage young people to help them find their first job. In addition, the Department spent £211,533.72 on providing literature-based information to people of working age. It is not possible to define the proportion of this spend relating specifically to the engagement of young people, as this information is aimed at everyone of working age.

With regard to activity delivered by NDPBs, Remploy is the only body to have incurred expenditure during the relevant financial period. Remploy has incurred spend on *(b)* literature-based materials for young people aged between 16 and 24 years on (i) employment of £817.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 908W, on departmental sick leave, what assessment he has made of the reasons for regional variations in average rates of sickness in his Department and its agencies. [27305]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions assesses variances in average rates of sickness at office and agency level. The Department has succeeded in reducing sickness absence from an average of 11.1 days per employee in 2007 to 8.3 days per employee currently. This has been achieved through compliance with policy, sharing best practice and, where necessary, by focusing additional efforts in under performing offices.

The Department has not, therefore, made an assessment on the reasons for regional variances in average rates of sickness.

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what criteria the objective assessment of disability living allowance applications is made; and how that assessment differs from his Department's previously proposed medical assessments for that allowance. [22466]

Maria Miller: Entitlement to disability living allowance (DLA) depends on the effects that disability has on a person's life and not on a particular disability or diagnosis. This means that people living with the same illnesses or disabilities may not necessarily have the same care or mobility needs. The current entitlement conditions can be open to interpretation which can lead to inconsistent and subjective decisions about benefit entitlement. It does not always focus support on those who need it most.

As set out in Budget 2010, the Government intend to introduce a new assessment for disability living allowance to allow us to more accurately, objectively and consistently assess individuals to determine who is likely to benefit most from additional support. The Department remains committed to the social model of disability and it is not our intention that the new assessment will just be based on the medical model of disability and focused solely on an individual's impairment.

We are not intending to introduce any other assessments in addition to this.

We are currently in the process of developing the new assessment with the help of an independent group of specialists in health care, social care and disability, which includes disabled people. We are planning to consult publicly on our proposals later this year.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funds have been made available from his Department's budget to assist the implementation of the recommendations of the work capability assessment independent review led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. [26818]

Chris Grayling: Professor Harrington's independent review of the work capability assessment (WCA) was published on 23 November, alongside the Government's response. The Government's response fully accepted the substantial series of recommendations put forward by Professor Harrington.

While we are fully committed to doing this, we have not yet established exactly what funds will be needed to implement the Government's response. Many of the changes are already planned in the design of IB (IS) reassessment. We agree with Professor Harrington's assessment that as these changes are implemented they will reduce costs.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many placements have been commissioned under the Work Choice programme; [26811]

(2) how many placements he expects to be commissioned under the Work Choice programme by 2015. [26812]

Chris Grayling: Work Choice contracted delivery will support around 79,000 people over the life of the contracts. This includes 66,000 new starters plus a further 13,000 former Workstep customers, who will continue to be supported within Work Choice.

Figures for Work Choice delivered by Remploy cover the remaining two and a half year period of the modernisation plan, which goes up to 2012-13. During this period Remploy will support around 70,500 people. This includes 59,500 new starters plus a further 11,000 former Workstep customers, who will continue to be supported within Work Choice.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place in the Work Programme to encourage employers to recruit people with disabilities. [26813]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme will give providers the freedom to design personalised support that delivers for all participants, including those with a disability. It will also operate a differential pricing system which will ensure it is worthwhile for providers to support all customer groups back into work.

We are expecting providers to engage with local partners, including employers, in order to deliver an effective localised service to our customers.

Additionally, all providers offering employment support on behalf of the Department will be required under the Equality Act 2010 to give due regard to promoting disability equality in the exercise of their duties, which will include supporting disabled people into employment.

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of the recommendations of the work capability assessment independent review led by Professor Malcolm Harrington he expects to have been fully implemented before the national migration from incapacity benefit to employment and support allowance begins in April 2011. [26819]

Chris Grayling: Professor Harrington's independent review of the work capability assessment (WCA) was published on 23 November, alongside the Government's response. The Government's response fully accepted the substantial series of recommendations put forward by Professor Harrington.

The Department is committed to a programme of continuous improvement, working with the stakeholders to ensure the customer journey is as smooth as possible. While there is still considerable work to be done in order to accurately determine time scales we remain confident of being able to get the key recommendations implemented by April 2011. The obvious exceptions to this are the programme of work for the second independent review Professor Harrington has set out, which he will take forward over the next year.

Housing Benefit

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England likely to be affected by the proposed changes to housing benefit; [24442]

(2) how many households he estimates will experience a reduction in their housing benefit as a result of his proposals on housing benefit arrangements in *(a)* Newcastle North constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England. [25706]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12".

This includes information at the local authority level. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

We will publish a document on the impacts of the proposed changes to the shared room rate in due course, which will include information at the local authority level. A more detailed equality impact assessment will be published in the normal way, once the detail of the policy has been finalised to accompany the amending regulations.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on those in receipt of local housing allowance of his proposals for changes to the allowance. [27452]

Steve Webb: On 23 July the Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12', which includes analysis at the local authority level, and a separate equality impact assessment. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

The Department will publish a full impact assessment for the 2011-12 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements when it lays the relevant legislation in November 2010.

The Department is intending to carry out evaluation and monitoring to cover the impact of the housing benefit measures. The precise form will depend upon the resources that are available, but we anticipate that it will include independent research examining the effects on different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

Housing Benefit: Aberdeenshire

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average amount of housing benefit paid to local authority tenants in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City was in the latest period for which figures are available; [25305]

(2) what the average amount of local housing allowance paid to local authority tenants in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City was in the latest period for which figures are available; [25306]

(3) what the average amount of housing benefit paid to housing association tenants in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City was in the latest period for which figures are available; [25307]

(4) what the average amount of local housing allowance paid to housing association tenants in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City was in the latest period for which figures are available; [25308]

(5) what the average amount of housing benefit paid to private sector tenants in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City was in the latest period for which figures are available; [25309]

(6) what the average amount of local housing allowance paid to private sector tenants in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City was in the latest period for which figures are available; [25310]

(7) what proportion of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance recipients in (i) local authority, (ii) housing association and (iii) private sector housing in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City were also in receipt of (A) jobseeker's allowance and (B) employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [25312]

Steve Webb: The information requested on housing benefit claimants also in receipt of either jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen city is not available.

Information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance and income- based employment support allowance. However neither the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants nor the total number of employment support allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is available.

The information requested on the average amount of local housing allowance paid to local authority and housing association tenants is not available.

Local housing allowance was introduced in the private deregulated sector from April 2008.

The latest available figures (August 2010) on the average weekly amount of housing benefit in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen city are as follows, by tenure.

£

	Aberdeen city	*Aberdeenshire*
Local authority tenant	56.03	53.78
Registered social landlord tenant	62.91	62.70
All private tenants	102.06	98.96
Private deregulated tenant (LHA)	102.05	109.48

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. Local housing allowance tenants (LHA) may include a small number of non-LHA cases making a new claim since 7 April 2008. This will include recipients in caravan accommodation.
4. These data incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and August 2010 are the most recent available.
6. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
7. Tenure type does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.
8. Housing association tenants are now registered social landlord tenants.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)—August 2010

Housing Benefit: Fife

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Fife receive local housing allowance. [27277]

Steve Webb: As at August 2010, our records show that there are 4,300 people receiving the local housing allowance in Fife.

Housing Benefit: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 911W, on housing benefit: finance, if he will place in the Library a copy of the data on the amounts and monetary values of all historical data and internal forecast assumptions referred to. [26883]

Steve Webb: The methodology used for the costing of the Budget measures was published at the June Budget and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Detailed assessments will be published to accompany the draft legislation.

Housing Benefit: Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in receipt of housing benefit in each local authority area include at least one person in receipt of *(a)* (i) long-term and (ii) short-term incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disablement allowance. [27281]

Steve Webb: The information is not yet available.

Information is collected on claimants' income from long-term and short-term incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance on the new single housing benefit extract. However this information has not yet been quality assured to National Statistics standard, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Lone Parents: Social Security Benefits

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women will be affected by the changes to lone parent conditionality announced in the June 2010 Budget by 2014-15. [26778]

Maria Miller: By the end of 2014-15, the Department for Work and Pensions estimates that there will have been around 300,000 lone parents with children over the age of five affected by the changes to conditionality announced in the June 2010 Budget. Of these, it is estimated that over 90% will be women.

A framework of flexibilities and support is in place to help lone parents balance their caring responsibilities and work search. This includes access to specialist advisers in Jobcentre Plus who can provide advice on child care, local employers with flexible working vacancies, and financial incentives; the right to restrict availability for work to the child's normal school hours where the youngest child is 12 or under; and enabling lone parents to be deemed available for work during school holidays if appropriate, affordable child care is not available.

Lone parents will also be helped by the universal credit which aims to make sure that all amounts of work will be more financially rewarding than inactivity, and remove the current barriers to small amounts of work. Improving the incentives to take up mini-jobs, for example, will particularly help those who are not able to take up full-time employment. Promoting a culture of employment will not only help those individuals but will also tackle the intergenerational cycles of worklessness and welfare dependency.

National Employment Savings Trust Scheme

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect on small companies with fewer than 10 employees of the requirement for them to contribute to employees' National Employment Savings Trust. [21431]

Steve Webb: Based on the Making Automatic Enrolment Work review recommendation thresholds, and full employer compliance, we expect between 2.3 million and 2.6 million of the automatically-enrolled population to work for employers with fewer than 10 employees. These individuals make up 17% to 18% of the automatically-enrolled population.

The effect on small businesses of the Workplace Pension Reform Regulations is set out in the 2010 impact assessment. The impact assessment looks at the impact on employers by employer size, looking specifically at small employers (defined as those with fewer than 50 workers) and micro employers (defined as those with fewer than five workers). Annex A presents the detailed assessment, as well as elements of the reforms that are designed to help small and micro employers.

Copies of the impact assessment can be found in the Commons Library or at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/772/pdfs/uksiem_20100772_en.pdf

An independent review of the workplace pension reforms "Making automatic enrolment work" was published on the 27 October 2010. One of the things the review team examined was the impact of the reforms on business. David Yeandle, of the Engineering Employers' Federation, was part of the review team to ensure that business interests were well represented in the review process.

The review team recognised that easing burdens on business was important. So a number of their recommendations are aimed specifically at making things more straightforward for employers and we have accepted these recommendations in full. This includes:

Increasing the threshold at which an individual is automatically enrolled (currently £5,035 at 2006-07 prices) to align it with the PAYE tax threshold (£7,475 in 2011-12) and aligning the threshold at which contributions become payable (currently £5,035) with the national insurance contributions threshold (currently £5,715).

A simpler way for employers to check that their defined contribution schemes meet the required standards.

An optional waiting period of up to three months before an employee needs to be automatically enrolled.

Such recommendations will give employers greater flexibility in how they implement the new requirements and will mean that there is a much more proportionate impact on employers. The increased earnings threshold and waiting period are particularly beneficial for smaller employers, as they tend to have more lower earners and higher staff turnover.

The review team recommended a range of further measures specifically aimed at helping smaller businesses including:

Ensuring that micro employers are aware that the design of NEST specifically takes account of their needs.

Providing the maximum possible comfort to small employers that they will not be held liable for their scheme choice, particularly if they opt for NEST or a stakeholder pension scheme.

In addition, smaller businesses will not be required to do anything until 2014, once larger employers have been fully brought in. This gives them more time to prepare and more time for us to ensure that the processes work well. Even then they will not be required to contribute the full 3% minimum contribution until October 2017.

New businesses will be given further protection by being brought into the reforms last. Any new businesses set up after April 2012 will not have to automatically enrol until March 2016 at the earliest.

The Government are taking forward the recommendations from the review as part of the forthcoming Pensions and Savings Bill, which is scheduled for introduction to Parliament in January 2011. The accompanying impact assessment will set out in detail how the changes affect smaller employers.

Pensioners: Cost of Living

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* consumer price index and *(b)* retail price index in measuring the increases in living costs of pensioners. [26976]

Steve Webb: The relative effectiveness of the consumer prices index (CPI) and retail prices index (RPI) in measuring the increases in living costs for pensioners has been considered with regards to the coverage or "basket of goods" and methodology of each.

The CPI excludes mortgage interest payments, which are not relevant to the majority of pensioners: only 7% of pensioners have a mortgage[1]. The RPI includes mortgage interest payments, which are variable and consequently can have a marked effect on that index. This means that in some years the RPI faces significant downwards or upwards pressure from a cost of living irrelevant to 93% of pensioners.

For example, in the 12 months to September 2009 the RPI fell by 1.4%, leading to many pensions being frozen, including additional state pensions, public service pensions and some occupational pensions. Without downwards pressure from mortgage interest payments, the RPI would have grown by 1.3%[2].

In addition in terms of population coverage the RPI excludes a significant group of pensioners (pensioner households who receive 75% or more of their income from the state). The CPI includes those pensioners[3].

The methodology used to calculate the CPI takes into account the fact that many people tend to trade down to cheaper goods when prices rise. This contributes a significant portion of the gap between the CPI and the RPI and is known as the "formula" or "substitution" effect

[1] Households Below Average Income 2008-09

[2] Table 2, Consumer Price Indices Statistical Bulletin, September 2010, Office for National Statistics

[3] Consumer Prices Index Technical Manual 2010

Personal Income: East of England

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median household income was of a family in *(a)* social rented sector, *(b)* private rented sector and *(c)* owner-occupied accommodation in the East of England (i) before and (ii) after housing costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [17865]

Steve Webb: Estimates of median income by tenure type both before and after housing costs can be derived from the published households below average income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

Table 1: Median income of households, before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC) for the east of England by tenure type, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	£ per week, 2008-09 prices	
Tenure	*BHC*	*AHC*
Owners	469	424
Social Rented Sector Tenants	295	222
All Rented Privately	397	297

1. These statistics are based on the households below average income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Amounts have been rounded to the nearest pound.
7. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
8. All estimates are subject to sampling error.

Source:
Household below average income.

Poverty: Children

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in Great Yarmouth were classified as being in poverty in each year from 2005 to 2009. [24705]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the households below average income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for East of England are set out in the following table.

Number and percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income for the East of England, before housing costs (BHC)

	BHC	
Period	*Number (million)*	*Percentage*
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2	15
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2	16
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2	15
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.2	15
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.2	16

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, DWP

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of household income made up of benefits in kind by net equalised income quintile. [21052]

Chris Grayling: The main source of income information, the households below average income series, includes free school meals, healthy start vouchers, free school milk and TV licences as benefits in kind income. The proportion of gross unequivalised household income made up by these benefits in kind by net equivalised household income quintile before and after housing costs is given in the following table:

Proportion of gross unequivalised household income made up by benefits in kind included in income by net equivalised household income quintile, before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC), 2008/09, United Kingdom

Quintile	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
1	1	[1]—
2	[1]—	[1]—
3	[1]—	[1]—
4	[1]—	[1]—
5	[1]—	[1]—
Total	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Less than 0.5% of gross income is made up by those benefits in kind being considered.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses net household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. In this analysis, equivalised net household incomes before or after housing costs are used to calculated which quintiles households fall into, but shares of incomes have been calculated using gross unequivalised household incomes. This is in line with the best practice and the HBAI publication.
3. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

Source:

Household Below Average Income.

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he expects to transfer from incapacity benefit to jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance by 2015. [26810]

Chris Grayling: We expect around 1.5 million existing incapacity benefits customers to go through the IB reassessment process by 2014. Of these the Department's initial projection is that approximately 23% are expected to be assessed as fit for work following their work capability assessment and move off incapacity benefits, of which around half are expected to go to JSA. The remaining 77%, are expected to be assessed as having a limited capability for work and move to ESA with around three-quarters moving to the Work Related Activity Group.

It should be noted that these are projections for reassessment outcomes—there are no targets.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in receipt of housing benefit in each local authority area include a claimant in receipt of disability premium on the basis of being incapable of work for over 12 months and no qualifying benefit. [27282]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Information is collected on whether claimants are in receipt of a disability premium on the new Single Housing Benefit Extract. However this information has not yet been quality assured to National Statistics standard, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

State Retirement Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 117W, on state retirement pensions, how many people who were in receipt of a full state pension before 6 April 2009 had not accrued the full number of entitlement years by means of their own national insurance contributions, their spouse's national insurance contributions or bought-back years. [27135]

Steve Webb: At the end of the 2008-09 tax year there were 1.6 million people over state pension age in GB and overseas with entitlement to a full basic state pension who had not accrued the requisite number of qualifying years solely by means of paid contributions of any class.

Notes:

1. The answer shows the number of people with full entitlement to basic state pension who accrued their entitlement from 1975 onwards wholly or in part through national insurance credits or home responsibilities protection.
2. Due to insufficient data all recorded pre-1975 contributions are assumed to be paid contributions.
3. Figure excludes individuals for whom entitlement to full basic pension is derived wholly or in part from their former spouse's national insurance contributions.
4. The figure is for individuals reaching state pension age before 6 April 2009. These individuals are not affected by changes to the calculation of entitlement to the basic state pension for people reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate: Lifetime Labour Market Database 1% sample of the National Insurance Recording System.

State Second Pension

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women will be affected by uprating the additional state pension with reference to the consumer price index by 2014-15. [26777]

Steve Webb: The following table shows the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women expected to be in receipt of additional state pension in 2014-15, and therefore affected by uprating of additional state pension using the consumer prices index.

State second pension, state earnings-related pension scheme and graduated retirement benefit caseload by gender, 2014-15

	Thousand
Male	4,700
Female	5,700

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. Forecasts are based on the June 2010 Budget medium-term projections.
3. Figures cover Great Britain residents only.

TREASURY

Bank Bonuses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the amount likely to be paid out in bonuses by the largest banks to staff in *(a)* investment banking and *(b)* other divisions of those banks from December 2010 to April 2011. [24838]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 18 November 2010]*: Estimates for bonuses at the level of detail specified in the question have not been made.

Banks: Pay

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the (i) British Bankers' Association and (ii) Investment Management Association to discuss remuneration disclosure. [26634]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Banks: Regulation

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on the implementation of the recommendations of the Walker Review of the corporate governance of the UK banking industry; and if he will make a statement. [26820]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to a robust remuneration disclosure regime and the principles set out in Sir David Walker's report, and will make an announcement in due course.

Child Benefit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the average effect on the income of *(a)* a single household with an income above £44,000 per annum and *(b)* a multiple income household with combined incomes above £45,000 per annum in which no one earns more than £44,000 of his proposed change to child benefit arrangements. [16770]

Mr Gauke: The average effect of the proposed change is dependent on the number of children in each family affected. Families with one child will lose around £1,060 per annum while families with two children will lose around £1,750 per annum.

There are no higher-rate taxpayers in households in which no one earns more than £44,000 so there will be no impact on these families.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the cost of administering child benefit. [18079]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor has received a number of representations on the cost of administering child benefit. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of families with at least one higher rate taxpayer are eligible for child benefit payments in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region. [24232]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the number and proportion of families who are eligible for child benefit in 2010-11 and have at least one higher rate taxpayer are shown in the table, by Government office region.

Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Region	*Number of families who are eligible for child benefit and have at least one higher rate taxpayer*[1, 2, 3]	*Proportion of families eligible for child benefit that have at least one higher rate taxpayer (%)*[1, 3]
North-east	40,000	11
North-west	100,000	11
Yorkshire and The Humber	70,000	11
East midlands	60,000	12
West midlands	90,000	13
East of England	130,000	19
London	220,000	24
South-east	280,000	28
South-west	90,000	15
Wales	30,000	8
Scotland	100,000	16
Northern Ireland	20,000	10
United Kingdom	1,200,000	17

[1] These estimates are produced using the Inter-Governmental Tax and Benefit Model (IGOTM), which is based on the Family Resources Survey (FRS). As with any survey based estimates, they are subject to sampling error.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

[3] For this table a family is based on a 'benefit unit' as defined in the FRS.

Child Benefit: Young People

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who received child benefit payments in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [17135]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of households which are entitled to child benefit payments for children over the age of 16 years; [17121]

(3) how many households received child benefit payments for children over the age of 16 years in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [17122]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* As at August 2009, there were 640,000 men and 6,680,000 women who were in receipt of child benefit. An equivalent breakdown for 2008 is not available.

Information on the number of households which are entitled to child benefit payments for children over the age of 16 years is not available. But as at August 2009 there were 1,150,000 households who were in receipt of child benefit in respect of a young person aged over 16 years. At August 2008 there were 1,070,000 households.

Credit Unions

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to support local credit unions. [26636]

Mr Hoban: The coalition Government have committed to fostering diversity, promoting mutuals and creating a more competitive banking industry.

The Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order 2010 will be re-laid before Parliament in the next few weeks. The new measures will enable credit unions to expand their membership and range of services, and reduce regulatory burdens on the sector. In addition, the Government will consult shortly on electronic communications in the mutual sector. This would allow credit unions and other mutual societies to use electronic communications in discharging some of their statutory obligations which would help the sector to reduce its administrative costs.

Crown Currency Exchange

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on reports by Currency Index in February 2010 on Crown Currency Exchange. [26606]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Esher and Walton (Mr Raab) on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 426W.

Debts: Disadvantaged

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has had on the effects on people in deprived areas of high levels of debt. [16946]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

On 13 July 2010, the Government announced a review of consumer credit and personal insolvency. The Government want to ensure that the regulatory framework is fair to both consumers and the providers of credit. The review will cover all aspects of the consumer credit lifecycle from the decision to take out a loan through the lifetime of the loan, including what happens when things go wrong. The review will be jointly conducted by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and HM Treasury. The Government recently published a call for evidence in support of the review which can be accessed via the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/consumer-issues/consumer-credit-and-debt/managing-borrowing.

The closing date for responses to the call for evidence is 10 December 2010.

Departmental Civil Service Live Conference

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* Government Banking Service, *(c)* Government Finance Profession and *(d)* Buying Solutions stand at Civil Service Live 2010. [12834]

Justine Greening: The costs of the stands at Civil Service Live 2010 are shown in the following table.

	£
HM Revenue and Customs	7,600
Government Banking Service	8,000
Government Finance Profession	2,400
Buying Solutions	10,000

Departmental Lobbying

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent from the public purse on influencing public policy through *(a)* employing external (i) public affairs companies, (ii) strategic consultancies and (iii) corporate communications firms, *(b)* external marketing and *(c)* other activities in each of the last 10 years; [23759]

(2) which of his Department's non-departmental public bodies have undertaken activities to influence public policy for which they engaged *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each year since 1997; and at what monetary cost in each such year. [23786]

Justine Greening: None of the Treasury's agencies or non-departmental public bodies have engaged in activities or spent public funds on influencing public policy.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5546]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 498W.

Records are not kept of the destination of journeys using allocated ministerial cars. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010; [10112]

(2) how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in July 2010; [15149]

(3) how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21781]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr Maude) on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 734W.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7402]

Justine Greening: Treasury staff contribute to the drafting of ministerial speeches as appropriate. Special advisers also contribute to the preparation of speeches in line with their code of conduct.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18411]

Justine Greening: Information on spending on overseas visits by grade level is not available within the disproportionate costs threshold. Spending on overseas travel and subsistence by Ministers and all staff in 2009-10 was £1,296,000.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6872]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury, like any employer, has to act in accordance with regulations. However, there is no breakdown of the costs imposed on it by EU regulations. Any such information that does exist is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Budget

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 896W, on the EC budget, whether he plans to discuss at EU level the re-orientation of the EU budget towards addressing issues of climate change and energy security. [20725]

Justine Greening: The Government engage regularly and actively on EU reform issues with other EU member states and with our EU partners at all levels. Formal negotiations of the future of the EU Budget will begin when the EU Commission issue their proposal for the 2014-2020 Financial Framework, expected by July 2011.

The Government believe the EU Budget should reflect the fiscal deficit. However, within that framework, the EU should modernise its budget to do more to tackle the challenges of the 21st century: global competitiveness, global warming and global poverty. But this must not come at the cost of higher EU spending overall.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of implementing and monitoring compliance with legislation transposing EU requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18760]

Mr Hoban: It is not standard accounting practice to distinguish regulatory costs from overall running costs, whether of EU origin or domestic. There is therefore no pre-existing breakdown of the costs imposed on it by EU legislation upon which the Department can draw to produce an estimate of such compliance. Any such information that does exist is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Beer

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many brewers that received small breweries relief in 2009-10 had received such relief in previous years; [26162]

(2) how many of the breweries liable for a reduced rate of duty under the small breweries relief scheme in 2008-09 participated in the scheme in 2009-10; [26164]

(3) which brewers participated in the small breweries relief scheme in each year since 2002; and how much beer produced by each has qualified for such relief; [26163]

(4) how much the Exchequer has forgone in duty under small breweries relief in each year since 2002; and in respect of how many brewers. [26166]

Justine Greening: In 2009-10 there were 666 breweries that paid duty at a reduced rate due to the small breweries relief. Of these 578 also benefited in 2008-09, while 503 did so in 2007-08.

Information on specific breweries is taxpayer confidential and therefore cannot be disclosed by HMRC.

The foregone duty can be approximated by applying the full duty rate to small breweries' clearances. This gives us an estimated cost to the Exchequer of £125 million since 2002-03. However this does not account for any reduction in clearances that may have resulted if the relief was not in place; over this period the number of breweries utilising the small breweries relief has grown from under 400 to over 650.

A yearly breakdown is given in the following table.

	Number	*Clearances (hl)*	*Estimated Exchequer cost (£m)*
2002-03	394	850,000	5
2003-04	428	600,000	10
2004-05	476	1,050,000	20
2005-06	509	1,100,000	15
2006-07	580	950,000	15
2007-08	611	1,100,000	15
2008-09	646	1,100,000	20
2009-10	666	1,150,000	25

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) of 8 June 2010, on Early Day Motion 61. [26117]

Justine Greening: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Minimum Wage

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid to employees in arrears under national minimum wage legislation following enforcement action by HM Revenue and Customs since 6 April 2009. [23065]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has identified minimum wage arrears of almost £6.7 million between April 2009 and the end of October 2010. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does not keep separate statistics on the amount of arrears paid or not paid to workers.

HMRC will pursue any known non-payment of arrears through civil recovery action.

Mortgages

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the Financial Service Authority's estimate of the likely effect on house prices of its mortgage market proposals; and if he will make a statement; [26555]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the implications for its policy on home ownership of the effects on the availability of mortgage finance of the implementation of the Financial Service Authority's mortgage market proposals; [26556]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects of the implementation of the Financial Service Authority's mortgage market proposals on the *(a)* housing market, *(b)* level of availability of mortgages and *(c)* supply of new homes; [26557]

(4) whether he has discussed with the Council of Mortgage Lenders *(a)* the Financial Service Authority's responsible lending proposals and *(b)* the likely effects on the housing market of their implementation; [26558]

(5) what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that *(a)* self-employed and *(b)* other future home-buyers with variable incomes will have access to mortgages under the Financial Service Authority's proposals for the mortgage market; [26559]

(6) whether he has assessed the likely effects of the Financial Service Authority's mortgage market proposals on small businesses with a turnover of under £1 million; [26560]

(7) what mechanisms will be in place to assist borrowers who are unable to remortgage a property under the Financial Service Authority's mortgage market proposals. [26561]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to a healthy housing and mortgage market.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is conducting a wholesale review of mortgage regulation in the UK, the 'Mortgage Market Review'.

The Government believe that it is right for the FSA to ensure that the UK mortgage market has responsible lending practices. We will continue to work with the FSA, mortgage lenders and intermediaries, and consumer groups to ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants.

In July the FSA published "Mortgage Market Review: Responsible Lending", which sets out the detail of some proposed changes. This paper forms one part of an ongoing consultation process.

The FSA has stated that it will fully assess the potential impact on the market before implementing any rule changes. Further, the FSA will consult in 2011 on transitional measures to help mitigate any adverse effects on existing borrowers.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* level of availability and *(b)* price range of mortgages. [26562]

Mr Hoban: Decisions concerning the pricing and availability of mortgages remain commercial decisions for individual banks and building societies. The Government do not seek to intervene in these decisions.

The Government are committed to fostering diversity and promoting competition in the banking sector. A competitive banking sector ensures that the economy benefits from the right quantity of banking products and services on offer at an economically efficient price. Competition is also a spur to innovation and economic growth.

National Insurance: Members

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the proposed national insurance holiday for employers establishing new businesses will apply to new constituency offices opened by hon. Members first elected in 2010. [17228]

Mr Gauke: The regional employer national insurance Contributions holiday for new businesses applies to new businesses set up on or after 22 June 2010. For the purposes of the holiday a business is defined as a trade, profession or vocation, or property businesses or investment businesses.

The holiday does not apply to new constituency offices opened by hon. Members first elected in 2010.

Public Expenditure

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will analyse the potential effects across *(a)* household income distribution and *(b)* household spending distribution of overall spending reductions agreed in the spending review; [16198]

(2) if he will analyse the potential effects across *(a)* household income distribution and *(b)* household spending distribution of spending reductions by each Department agreed in the spending review. [16199]

Justine Greening: For the first time at the spending review, the distributional impacts of changes in tax, welfare and Departmental Expenditure Limits have been presented. Chart B.6 (p100) in Annex B of the spending review shows that the top 20% of earners contribute most to the fiscal consolidation as a percentage of net income and benefits-in-kind. Given that no changes to indirect taxation were announced at spending review, distributional impacts by expenditure distribution have not been shown in the document. Estimates of indirect tax measures announced at the June Budget by expenditure decile can be found in Charts A3 and A4 (p68) in Annex A of the June Budget.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Research and Development tax credit scheme since its inception; and how many businesses have participated in that scheme. [26100]

Mr Gauke: Annual numbers and costs of R and D tax credit claims, including those under the SME scheme, are published as National Statistics on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

The most recent figures, published on 29 October 2010, cover financial years 2000-01 to 2008-09, during which period 17,110 companies have made claims under the SME scheme totalling £1.72 billion.

Revenue and Customs: Databases

Claire Perry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the cost to British businesses of implementing the new iXBRL data system in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [26383]

Mr Gauke: HMRC published an updated impact assessment in April 2009. The work on XBRL was largely qualitative, rather than quantitative. There have been rapid developments in the XBRL market over recent months, and HMRC will be reviewing the figures shown in the impact assessment using its normal post implementation procedures in due course.

Revenue and Customs: Legal Costs

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs has spent on legal costs in cases involving the FA Premier League and clubs playing in that league in each of the last five years. [26138]

Mr Gauke: All sums of money in this answer have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

In 2006, 2007 and 2008 HMRC spent nothing on legal costs in cases involving the FA Premier League and clubs playing in that league.

In 2009, HMRC Solicitor's Office recorded solicitors' time charges and other costs of £8,000 in such cases.

So far in 2010, HMRC Solicitor's Office has recorded solicitors' time charges and other costs of £170,000 and spent £102,000 + VAT on Counsel's fees in such cases.

Some of these costs are recoverable from other parties. Portsmouth City Football Club Ltd ("PCFC") was ordered to pay HMRC's legal costs of its unsuccessful attempt to have HMRC's winding-up petition struck out. These were agreed by the joint administrators of PCFC in the sum of £100,000. This is, however, a debt which is subject to the terms of PCFC's company voluntary arrangement ("CVA"), and HMRC therefore only expects to recover these costs to the extent of 20p in the £.

The joint administrators of PCFC were also ordered to pay HMRC's legal costs of its challenge to the validity of their appointment. These costs are an expense of the administration and so are not subject to the terms of the CVA. HMRC therefore expects to recover these costs in full. The amount of these costs has yet to be agreed between HMRC and the joint administrators of PCFC.

Finally, HMRC was ordered to pay the legal costs of the joint administrators of PCFC in relation to HMRC's unsuccessful challenge to the CVA in the High Court. The joint administrators' claim was for £335,000 and HMRC has been ordered to pay £200,000 of this on account. The final liability under this head will only be known once the joint administrators' claim has been subject to detailed assessment by the court. It will not under any circumstances exceed £335,000 plus the costs of assessment; but it may in the event be substantially less than £335,000 depending upon the view that the court takes of the reasonableness of the amounts claimed.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Jim McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the potential effect of the implementation of proposed changes in the benefits system on the number of people employed by HM Revenue and Customs at its offices *(a)* in Dundee and *(b)* nationally. [26333]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: I understand the hon. Member is referring to the changes outlined in the White Paper 'Universal Credit: Welfare that Works'.

It is not possible to be precise at this point of time about the impact of the transition to Universal Credit until further decisions have been made on the operational design of the new system.

Revenue and Customs: Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 274W, on incentives, what activities HM Revenue and Customs sponsored in 2009-10; and how much it spent on each sponsorship activity. [27476]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 November, *Official Report*, column 274W.

The amount spent on sponsorship in 2009-10 was £542,034. This was spent on the development and production of The Business Inspector TV programme. This figure includes all related fees, website support and sponsorship advertising but excludes VAT.

Tax Collection

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what commission rates apply to the contracts of HM Revenue and Customs for tax debts collection services with *(a)* Commercial Collection Services Ltd, *(b)* Credit Solutions Ltd, *(c)* Fairfax Solicitors Ltd and *(d)* iQor Recovery Services Ltd. [25938]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The commission rates payable are commercially confidential and it would not be appropriate to disclose them.

Taxation: Financial Services

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax yield from a financial activities tax levied at a rate of *(a)* 0.01 per cent., *(b)* 0.025 per cent, *(c)* 0.05 per cent., *(d)* 0.1 per cent and *(e)* 1 per cent. on (i) all UK financial institutions and (ii) internal UK financial transactions. [26822]

Mr Hoban: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) report for the G20, 'A Fair and Substantial Contribution by the Financial Sector', endorses a financial activities tax (FAT) which would be levied on the sum of certain profits and remuneration in the financial sector. The IMF report puts forward several potential designs for a FAT. As announced in the June Budget, the Government are currently examining the costs and benefits of a FAT. At this stage it is not possible to estimate revenues.

Taxation: Multinational Companies

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many inquiries under controlled foreign companies legislation had been settled in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 on the latest date for which figures are available.; [24788]

(2) how many inquiries under controlled foreign companies legislation are open. [24789]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 18 November 2010]:* It is difficult to give a precise answer to this question as the controlled foreign company (CFC) inquiry is often part of a wider investigation. However, our best estimate of the number of inquiries that are open under the controlled foreign companies legislation is 190.

Similarly CFC issues will have featured in settlements as part of a wider investigation of a number of issues, but our best estimate of the number of inquiries that have been settled under the controlled foreign companies legislation in the following years is:

	Number
2008-09	72
2009-10	89
2010-11	29

VAT

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent meetings he has had on the matter of value added tax zero-rating. [26692]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers hold meetings with and receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and representations.

VAT: Further Education

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from sixth form colleges and further education colleges on community use of their facilities and the value added tax rate applied to building construction; and if he will make a statement; [25824]

(2) if he will change the threshold of community usage of facilities of sixth form colleges and further education colleges above which buildings construction becomes liable for value added tax in order to encourage colleges to make their facilities more widely available to the community. [25825]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers receive representations on a range of subjects; none have been received from sixth form or further education colleges on this matter.

The construction costs of a building intended to be used solely for a relevant charitable use (that is, use by a charity for a non-business purpose) are zero-rated for VAT. This could include buildings used by sixth form and further education colleges.

For those establishments, based on individual circumstances, HMRC accept that a building does not need to be used wholly for non-business activity to qualify for the zero rate. For simplification purposes and by application of their collection and management powers, HMRC accept that such a building can be zero-rated providing its relevant use is at least 95%. Reducing the relevant use below this figure would constitute an extension of the zero rate, which we are prevented from doing under agreements with our EU partners.

Welfare Tax Credits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the number of employees of FTSE 100 companies who are in receipt of tax credits. [26600]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 30 November 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27505]

Mr Paterson: None.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27359]

Mr Paterson: The Department did not incur any expenditure on entertainment related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Weapons

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to ensure the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning publishes an inventory of the weapons decommissioned by *(a)* loyalist and *(b)* republican paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland. [25735]

Mr Paterson: The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD), at the joint request of the British and Irish Governments, is preparing a final report on its work to decommission arms which it will present to the two Governments when completed. I intend to make the report available to Parliament when it is received, following normal consultation with my Irish counterpart in respect of reports addressed to both Governments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the IICD for its hard work and patience over the years, which has undoubtedly helped to forge the path towards normalisation in Northern Ireland today.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed increase in social housing rents to 80 per cent. of markets levels on construction of *(a)* social and *(b)* affordable housing in each region; and if he will make a statement. [27096]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 470-71W.

Audit Commission: Directors

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Director of Communications of the Audit Commission left his role. [27680]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 30 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The former Director of Communications and Public Reporting left his post on the grounds of redundancy.

Audit Commission: Hotels

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions five-star hotels have been booked by the Audit Commission through the Expotel hotel reservations service in the last 12 months; which hotels were booked; and at what cost to the public purse. [27191]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 30 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

In the last 12 months, the Audit Commission has booked two five-star hotels through Expotel that, at that time, offered the best value for money:

Waldorf Hilton, London

We booked 12 nights of accommodation for staff attending conferences during the period December 2009 to January 2010 at a total cost of £1,800.00. We paid an average rate of £150 per night, less than the Commission's ceiling rate at the time for a London hotel of £160 per night. The Commission reduced the ceiling rate for a hotel in London to £120 in July 2010.

Radisson Edwardian, Manchester

We booked 11 nights of accommodation for staff attending conferences during the period November 2009 to March 2010 at a total cost of £1,221.52. We paid an average rate of £111.05 per night, less than the Commission's ceiling rate at the time for a hotel outside London of £115. The Commission reduced the ceiling rate for hotels outside London to £90 in July 2010.

The Commission has not made any bookings for five-star hotels since April 2010.

Audit Commission: Official Hospitality

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission has spent on hospitality since the announcement of its abolition. [27190]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 30 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has spent £5,063 providing hospitality on three occasions since the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made his abolition announcement on 13 August 2010.

In October 2010 the Commission hosted the seventh Eurorai triennial congress and spent £5,000 contributing to the cost of a dinner for 170 delegates. We have already disclosed this item in our monthly publication of all payments over £500.

Eurorai is an organisation representing over 70 bodies involved in public audit in Europe. A congress is held every three years and the Region of the President elect is the host for this event. In 2007, we agreed that we would act as the host and plans have been underway to organise the congress for the last three years. Following the Secretary of State's announcement on 13 August of the Audit Commission's abolition, we considered our position and, after discussion with CLG officials, we agreed to go ahead with the congress and fulfil our commitment.

Also in October 2010, the Commission provided hospitality to:

six Polish visitors on an international academic visit - a full day visit where a sandwich lunch was provided at a total cost of £33.00; and

six visitors from the Houses of Parliament Spire Project team - an all day workshop where a sandwich lunch was provided at a total cost of £30.00.

Community Cohesion Fund

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have received grants from the Community Cohesion Fund; how much each has received; and what information his Department holds on the use to which each grant has been put. [27110]

Robert Neill: A table providing information on the 126 local authorities who received grant funding from the Community Cohesion Fund in 2010-11 has been placed in the Library of the House.

As this is area-based grant funding, the monies are non ring-fenced and it is for local authorities and their communities to identify their local priorities and fund these accordingly. The Department does not monitor how local authorities use their funding.

Council Tax: Lancashire

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual change was in the level of council tax precepts for *(a)* Hyndburn Council and *(b)* Rossendale Council in each year since 1999. [27010]

Robert Neill: It is assumed that the hon. Member means council tax levels rather than council tax precepts.

Details of both the annual change and the percentage change in council tax levels for Hyndburn and Rossendale councils in each year since 1999 are shown in the following tables. These data can also be found on DCLG's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax

Hyndburn council

	Band D council tax (including parish precepts)		*Band D area council tax (includes parish precepts)*	
	£	*Percentage change*	*£*	*Percentage change*
1999-2000	152	7.0	940	8.2
2000-01	152	0.0	982	4.5
2001-02	163	7.9	1,026	4.5
2002-03	168	2.7	1,098	7.0
2003-04	174	3.9	1,200	9.2
2004-05	181	3.9	1,259	4.9
2005-06	190	5.0	1,300	3.3
2006-07	200	5.0	1,364	4.9
2007-08	210	5.0	1,439	5.5
2008-09	220	5.0	1,493	3.8
2009-10	231	5.0	1,544	3.4
2010-11	231	0.0	1,549	0.4

Rossendale council

	Band D council tax (including parish precepts)		*Band D area council tax (includes parish precepts)*	
	£	*Percentage change*	*£*	*Percentage change*
1999-2000	156	4.3	944	7.8
2000-01	162	4.1	993	5.2
2001-02	166	2.3	1,029	3.6
2002-03	178	6.9	1,108	7.7
2003-04	209	17.4	1,234	11.3
2004-05	219	4.9	1,296	5.1
2005-06	230	5.0	1,340	3.4
2006-07	235	2.2	1,399	4.5
2007-08	242	2.9	1,471	5.1
2008-09	249	2.9	1,522	3.4
2009-10	256	2.9	1,569	3.1
2010-11	256	0.0	1,574	0.3

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what services provided by his Department and its predecessors were the subject of a contract with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98 and have subsequently become the subject of a contract with another supplier; and what the monetary value was of each such contract in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available in each case. [24908]

Robert Neill: The Department no longer holds records of any contracts that may have been held with Post Office Ltd in 1997-98.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which services of his Department and its predecessors have been the subject of a contract awarded in a tender process in which Post Office Ltd submitted a bid since 1997-98. [24909]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24910]

Robert Neill: The Department has worked alongside the Cabinet Office to identify opportunities where the Post Office will be able to compete for future Government services but has not matched any of its requirements to services provided by the Post Office network.

The Government policy statement 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age' published on 9 November 2010 provides information on the Government's policy for the Post Office and the provision of Government services.

The Department has had several meetings with Post Office Ltd during the course of the last year to discuss the services they offer that could be of use to councils, and have put them in contact with the Local Government Association to take forward promotion of those opportunities.

We are supportive of schemes by local authorities to provide support for Post Offices, such as the Essex County Council Post Office Initiative.

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27511]

Robert Neill: The Department does not maintain central records of expenditure incurred on sponsorship. I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Burton (Andrew Griffiths) on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 493W, on a sponsorship contract initiated by the last Government.

In the financial year 2009-10, the Department's Communication Directorate spent £70,654.90 as a sponsor of the British Darts Organisation and £4,850 as a sponsor of Bowls England, in return for marketing opportunities promoting the Department's Fire Kills fire safety campaign.

Fires Services: Grants

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the overall income of each fire service in 2009-10 came from central Government grants. [27618]

Robert Neill: The proportion of the total income for each single purpose Fire and Rescue Authority in England in 2009-10 which came from central Government grants is as follows.

	Central Government grants as a percentage of total income
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	64.2
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	62.6
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	61.8
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	59.7
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	67.5
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	62.3
Avon Combined Fire Authority	54.7
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	40.4
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	46.8
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	41.7
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	47.4
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	44.3
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	67.5
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	47.1
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority	47.8
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	43.3
Durham Combined Fire Authority	47.7
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	37.4
Essex Combined Fire Authority	44.0
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	44.7
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority	38.2
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	55.1
Kent Combined Fire Authority	41.6
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	54.2
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	55.3
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	42.9
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	50.8
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	39.2
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	44.8
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	40.2

Source:
Department for Communities and Local Government revenue outturn (RO) and capital outturn (CO) returns

The figures for other local authorities providing a fire service cannot be calculated as the formula grant is an unhypothecated grant.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates), specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services), specific and special revenue grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), Area Based Grant and expenditure financed by capital grants from central Government.

The definition of total income used here is the sum of central Government grants, council tax requirement, investment income—external receipts and dividends—sales, fees and charges, and in-year capital receipts. It excludes income reported by local authorities under 'other income' in revenue outturn returns as this includes internal recharges, which distorts the comparative figures.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

The dependency of local authorities on Government grant will be taken into account in the forthcoming Local Government Finance Settlement.

Housing

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to make changes to the definition of a local connection in respect of assessments for local authority housing or support. [26655]

Andrew Stunell: There are no current plans to change the provisions on local connection in section 199 of the Housing Act 1996 (which apply for the purposes of housing applications made under parts 6 and 7 of the 1996 Act).

Housing: Combined Heat and Power

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether micro-combined heat and power schemes fuelled by liquid petroleum gas are eligible to contribute to performance towards attaining sustainable home status. [26998]

Andrew Stunell: Yes. Micro-combined heat and power (micro-CHP) is a recognised technology under Standard Assessment Procedure for Energy Rating of Dwellings (SAP) and the Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code.). When micro-CHP schemes are fuelled by liquid petroleum gas, they contribute to performance towards attaining sustainability in a home. SAP 2009 includes generic emissions factors for different variants of liquid petroleum gas. Appendix N of SAP considers micro-CHP as an alternative to a conventional domestic boiler. Micro-CHP can contribute to meeting the Code standards, specifically under "Ene 1: Dwelling Emission rate and Ene 7: Low and Zero Carbon Technologies".

Housing: Construction

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his proposal to offset numbers of demolitions against the number of new build homes planned on *(a)* areas with high numbers of empty properties, *(b)* areas in respect of which local authorities have proposed demolition programmes and *(c)* incentives to (i) undertake regeneration projects and (ii) demolish buildings; and if he will make a statement. [26190]

Andrew Stunell: The aim of the New Homes Bonus is to provide a powerful, simple, transparent and permanent means of incentivising local authorities to increase their housing supply. The consultation stage impact assessment makes an estimate of the potential supply impact, based on a number of possible behavioural responses of local authorities. This can be viewed in the current consultation available on the Department for Communities and Local Government Website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus/

Almost £1 billion will be set aside for the New Homes Bonus over the spending review period, including nearly £200 million in year one, and we have made it clear that funding beyond these levels will come from formula grant which will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, for the following six years, with an additional amount for affordable homes.

Under the consultation proposals we are also incentivising local authorities to bring empty homes back into use, by removing them from the council tax base calculations. This also means the authorities demolishing homes classified as empty homes would not be penalised.

The Government are giving communities and neighbourhoods new rights, powers and tools that they could use to drive forward local regeneration and growth, enhancing their ability to benefit from the New Homes Bonus. We are giving local communities and councils greater control over what happens locally, and greater ability to secure and channel public resources, and to attract private and social investment. In addition, the recently established Regional Growth Fund (£1.4 billion over three years), the European Regional Development Fund, and the continuation of Regional Development Agencies and the Homes and Community Agency committed schemes will support local regeneration and growth.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing completions there were in the Southampton unitary authority area in each of the last five years. [27199]

Grant Shapps: The following table shows the number of new build dwellings completed in each financial year from 2005-06 to 2009-10 for Southampton unitary authority.

Dwellings completed

Number

Completions	*Private enterprise*	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authority*	*All*
2005-06	800	—	—	—
2006-07	800	—	—	—
2007-08	480	20	0	500
2008-09	470	10	0	480
2009-10	200	20	0	210

Note:

Estimates for registered social landlords, local authority, and therefore total new build dwellings are not available for 2005-06 and 2007-08 because of incomplete data.

Source:

National House-Building Council and returns from Southampton unitary authority.

Housing: Empty Property

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there are in *(a)* City of Chester constituency and *(b)* the North West; and how many such homes have been empty for six months or more in each of those areas. [27639]

Robert Neill: Data are not available at constituency level. Relevant billing authorities have reported that the total number of empty dwellings and the number of dwellings that have been empty for six months or more and are substantially unfurnished in Cheshire East, and in Cheshire West and Chester, are as shown in the following table. The data are a snap shot taken as at 4 October 2010.

	Total empty homes	*Long term empty*
Cheshire East	6,745	3,843
Cheshire West and Chester	4,797	2,079

Aggregation of equivalent data from all billing authorities in North West statistical region indicates that the total number of empty dwellings and the number of dwellings that have been empty for six months or more are as follows:

North West statistical region

Total empty homes	136,905
Long term empty	67,042

The data are taken from the council tax base (CTB) and CTB (Supplementary) forms completed annually in October by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Housing: Insulation

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in the *(a)* private rented, *(b)* social and *(c)* owner-occupied sector in (i) England, (ii) Hyndburn and (iii) Haslingden (A) are unfit for habitation and (B) do not meet his Department's minimum guidelines on insulation. [26186]

Andrew Stunell: Following the repeal of the Fitness Standard under the Housing Act 2004, the Department for Communities and Local Government no longer makes, or requires from local authorities, an assessment of the number of homes unfit for habitation. The Housing Health and Safety Rating System introduced a new approach to the evaluation of potential risks to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings. It was introduced in the Housing Act 2004, and came into force on 6 April 2006, replacing the "fitness standard" as the statutory minimum standard for housing and as one component of the decent homes measurement.

The Department does not set out minimum guidelines on insulation for existing housing.

The English Housing Survey provides a national-only estimate of the number of dwellings that do not meet the insulation requirements of the thermal comfort criterion of the Decent Homes Standard. These requirements are set out in the Guidance for the Decent Homes Standard, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/decenthome

Estimates for the number of dwellings that do not meet the insulation requirements of the thermal comfort criterion of the Decent Homes Standard in 2008 (the most recent estimates available) are set out in the following table:

Number and percentage of homes not meeting the insulation requirements of the thermal comfort criterion of the Decent Homes standard, 2008

	Number (Thousand)	Percentage of the tenure
Owner-occupied	1,488	10
Private rented	531	16
Social rented	363	9
All dwellings	2,381	11

Source: English Housing Survey, 2008.

The Department does not hold this information for Hyndburn or Haslingden.

Local Government Finance

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of bringing forward proposals to enable larger parish councils to retain their business rate income. [27109]

Robert Neill: We currently have no plans to allow parish councils to retain business rates income. However, the Government are committed to providing incentives for local authorities to promote economic growth through the business rates system. Proposals to enable councils to retain locally raised business rates will be taken forward through the Local Government Resource Review, which starts in January.

Local Government: Voluntary Organisations

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authority plans to deliver savings do not disproportionately affect the voluntary sector. [27303]

Andrew Stunell: Spending decisions are, and will continue to be, a matter for local authorities. We have a rich diversity of voluntary organisations, charities, faith groups, co-operatives, social enterprises and local housing trusts—all of whom already make a huge contribution to local life. The big society means using their potential and involving them even more in delivering what people want. I do not expect local authorities to respond by passing on disproportionate cuts to other service providers, especially the voluntary sector.

I also draw the attention of the hon. Member to my Department's press release of 14 October 2010 on the valuable role of the voluntary sector, a copy of which I have placed in the Library of the House.

Redundancy: Audit Commission

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any *(a)* redundancy, *(b)* settlement and *(c)* termination payments were made to the Director of Communications of the Audit Commission. [27679]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 30 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The former Director of Communications and Public Reporting left his post on the grounds of redundancy. He received a redundancy payment as provided for in his contract of employment. He was also given a payment in lieu of notice.

Right to Acquire Scheme

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right to acquire purchases from housing associations have been facilitated *(a)* in total and *(b)* with Sharia-compliant financing since January 2005; what the monetary value of such purchases was in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [26523]

Andrew Stunell: Between 2005-06 and 2009-10, a total of 1,850 sales took place under the right to acquire scheme with an estimated average market value of £94,000 per property acquired. Information by individual year is provided in the following table. Note the information for average market values is based on larger Registered Social Landlords only. None of the sales was made with Sharia-compliant finance.

Right-to-Acquire social housing sales in England

	Number	Average market value (£)
2005-06	470	83,000
2006-07	570	87,000
2007-08	540	108,000
2008-09	180	110,000
2009-10	90	98,000

Note:
Numbers rounded to nearest 10 homes and market values to £ thousand.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency (numbers) and Tenant Services Authority (market value).

Social Rented Housing

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of families eligible for social housing that require properties with *(a)* four, *(b)* three and *(c)* two bedrooms who are awaiting the allocation of such a property in each borough in London. [26470]

Andrew Stunell: Information is available on numbers of households rather than families. Social housing waiting lists are maintained by local authorities and are open to anyone to join. The number of households registered on social housing waiting lists, along with the number of households requiring one, two, three, more than three, or an unspecified number of bedrooms, as at 1 April each year, is collected from local authorities in England in section C on the annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). The latest information for each local authority as at 1 April 2009 is available on the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1393618.xls

Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the social landlords will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists.

Information relating to 1 April 2010 will be published on the DCLG website today.

Social Rented Housing: Lambeth

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 136W, on social rented housing: Lambeth, what plans he has for capital allocations under the Decent Homes programme for *(a)* Lambeth Living and *(b)* United Residents Housing arm's length management organisations in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and when he expects to announce allocations to all arm's length management organisations for those years; [26273]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 499W, on social rented housing: Lambeth, what eligibility criteria will apply to proposals for Decent Homes programme funding for arm's length management organisations following the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review; [26274]

(3) whether he plans to bring forward proposals to provide Decent Homes funding directly to local authorities rather than to an arms length management organisation. [26696]

Andrew Stunell: On 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) announced that all councils, including those with arm's length management organisations, that have a significant backlog of decent homes work will be eligible for funding from a new single Decent Homes funding stream.

The funding settlement for the Decent Homes programme over the spending review period had to be set at a level below expectations in order to reduce the massive deficit left by the last Government. A fresh approach to determining need and allocation is therefore needed.

The Homes and Communities Agency are currently consulting on proposals for the process and criteria for allocating Decent Homes capital funding. This includes a timetable for authorities to make bids following which the Homes and Community Agency hope to make allocations in January or early February. A copy of the proposal document has been placed in the Library of the House.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department expects to bring forward amendments to planning circular ODPM 01/2006 on Gypsy and Traveller sites. [27156]

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to implement his proposals to replace draft circular 01/2006 on Gypsy and Traveller sites. [27312]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) to my hon. Friend the Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood (Eric Ollerenshaw) on 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 430.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Air Travel

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which airlines his Department has contracts. [27104]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have contracts with airlines. Flights are booked through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel service provider, Hogg Robinson Group, using the fare rates of the Government Air Programme (a framework agreement owned by Buying Solutions) and Hogg Robinson Group.

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 965W, on departmental contracts, whether he has made an estimate of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be terminated early under his Department's planned spending reductions following the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [27677]

Alistair Burt: There are at present no plans to terminate contracts between the Department and private sector companies following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Developing Countries: Departmental Coordination

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what priority locations he has identified for co-location of posts of his Department and of the Department for International Development. [25608]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development (DFID) are strongly committed to identifying opportunities for co-location which make operational sense and can save taxpayers' money.

Specific opportunities for co-location agreed between the two Departments include:

Ghana: DFID will move into the high commission visa building in Accra in early 2011;

Barbados: plans are in place for DFID to move into the high commission offices in Bridgetown by autumn 2011;

India: DFID are considering co-location following a refit of the high commission offices in New Delhi;

Jerusalem: DFID are progressing a design to build on our compound adjacent to our consular offices.

We have already co-located staff in Juba and Montserrat.

EU Justice and Home Affairs

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what measures the UK has exercised an opt-in under EU legislative arrangements since May 2010; and what further such measures have been proposed in respect of which the possibility of a UK opt-in arises in that period. [27619]

Mr Lidington: Since May 2010, the UK has exercised its Title V (Justice and Home Affairs) opt-in in relation to six proposals:

The Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement;

The Council Decision to sign and conclude the EU-US agreement on the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme;

The draft Directive to combat the sexual exploitation of children;

The Council Decision to conclude the EU-Georgia readmission agreement;

The draft Directive on the European Investigation Order;

The draft Directive on the Right to Information.

The UK has not opted in to a further five Title V measures during this period:

A Commission proposal on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings;

The draft Directive to combat human trafficking;

The Council Decision on a proposal to amend the EU-Swiss Agreement on the free movement of workers;

The draft Directive on seasonal workers;

The draft Directive on legal migration.

Further proposals adopted by the Commission on which opt-in decisions are also pending are:

The Council Decision on the negotiating mandate for the EU-Canada Passenger Name Records (PNR) Agreement;

The Council Decision on the negotiating mandate for the EU-Australia Passenger Name Records (PNR) Agreement;

The Council Decision on the negotiating mandate for the EU-US Passenger Name Records (PNR) Agreement;

The Council Decision to negotiate amendments to the agreement between the EU and the EEA;

The draft Directive on attacks on information systems (cybercrime); and

The proposal to amend the Eurodac regulation.

Human Rights: Guantanamo Bay

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State and US administration officials on the release of Shaker Aamer from Guantanamo Bay; and if he will make a statement. [27557]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated the Government's request for the release and return to the UK of Shaker Aamer when he met the US Secretary of State in Washington on 17 November 2010. UK officials continue to discuss Mr Aamer's case with officials in the US but the outcome of these discussions is not certain. The decision on Mr Aamer's future lies solely with the US Government.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he received on the killing of 43 people during a Catholic mass in Baghdad on 31 October 2010; and whether he has made recent representations to the Iraqi government on the treatment and protection of Christian minority groups in Iraq. [26370]

Alistair Burt: In addition to press reports, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office received frequent reports of the attack on Our Lady of Salvation Church from our embassy in Baghdad. In response, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised his concerns when he met with the Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari on 10 November 2010. Mr Zebari confirmed that the Iraqi Government will safeguard the rights and freedoms of all minorities in Iraq.

Our ambassador to Iraq met with the Iraqi Minister for Human Rights on 11 November 2010 and raised our concerns with her.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also asked about the recent attacks on Christians in Iraq, and the wider security situation, in a phone call to Prime Minister

Nouri-al Maliki on 15 November 2010. Prime Minister Maliki expressed concern at recent developments and said that the Iraqi Government was doing everything possible to tackle the terrorist threat. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear the Iraqis had the UK's full support.

We will continue to press the Iraqi authorities to do all they can to bring to justice those who are responsible for this attack on innocent worshippers, and all Iraq's politicians and diverse communities to work together to tackle the threat of violent extremism.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of Christians killed in Iraq as a result of religious or ethnic violence in each Christian group in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [26372]

Alistair Burt: Unfortunately there are no reliable figures available on the number of Christians killed by ethnic violence in Iraq. However the UK is very concerned by the recent attacks against the Christian community in Iraq. We are doing everything we can to support the Iraqi Government in combating sectarian violence and providing adequate security for all groups.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the killing of *(a)* Catholics and *(b)* other Christians by extremist Islamist groups in Iraq. [27389]

Alistair Burt: In addition to press reports, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received a number of reports from our embassy in Baghdad on the recent attacks on Christians in the country. These reports do not generally distinguish between Catholics and other Christian groups.

We utterly condemn any attack against Iraqi citizens, including Christians. We were appalled at the attack on the Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad on 31 October 2010, which killed over 50 people and further attacks on 10 November, which targeted mainly Christian areas across Baghdad, killing six and wounding over 30. We welcome the recent arrests of suspects of these attacks.

We will continue to press the Iraqi authorities to do all they can to bring to justice those who are responsible for this attack on innocent worshippers, and all Iraq's politicians and diverse communities to work together to tackle the threat of violent extremism.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on recent trends in the level of violence towards Christians in Iraq. [27635]

Alistair Burt: Recent reports, from both the press and our embassy in Baghdad, have shown an increase in violence towards Christians in Iraq. The attack on the Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad on 31 October was the worst attack on the Christian minority in recent years. The attack was followed by further attacks on mainly Christian areas of Baghdad on 10 November.

We will continue to press the Iraqi authorities to do all they can to bring to justice those who are responsible for this attack on innocent worshippers, and all Iraq's politicians and diverse communities to work together to tackle the threat of violent extremism.

Lebanon: Foreign Relations

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of UK relations with Lebanon. [26646]

Alistair Burt: As demonstrated during the recent visit of Prime Minister Hariri, the UK is a firm friend of Lebanon. We welcome the period of peace and prosperity that Lebanon has enjoyed since 2008. We want to see this continue and support Lebanon's Government of National Unity which is working to maintain stability. We have recently confirmed further funding for the Special Tribunal on Lebanon. We call on all parties to allow the tribunal to complete its work in the interests of justice.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Ugandan government on *(a)* freedom of (i) assembly and (ii) expression, *(b)* police management of public order and *(c)* treatment of the rural media in respect of political reporting during the forthcoming presidential election campaign. [26344]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our high commission in Kampala has discussed issues relating to freedom of assembly and expression (including political reporting) and public order management with the Government of Uganda.

We have raised the Public Order Management Bill with the Ugandan Minister of Internal Affairs, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs and the Inspector-General of Police. Our high commission has discussed the draft Press and Journalist Bill with the Ugandan Minister for Information and National Guidance. In all cases we have encouraged the Ugandan authorities to ensure that any new legislation strikes an appropriate and legitimate balance between regulation and protection of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Furthermore, the UK is working to support key institutions in Uganda, including the Electoral Commission, Government and opposition parties, and the police force, to help ensure elections that are as credible and peaceful as possible.

TRANSPORT

Cycling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the continuation of the *(a)* Bikeability, *(b)* Cycling Towns and Cities and *(c)* Finding New Solutions programmes previously funded by Cycling England. [20197]

Norman Baker: The current Cycling England programme ends in March 2011, with some transitional activity likely to continue into 2011-12. As part of the Government's commitment to supporting sustainable travel, and to simplify funding for local authorities, I have announced the creation of a Local Sustainable Transport Fund worth £560 million. This will challenge local transport authorities outside London to develop packages of measures that support economic growth and reduce carbon in their communities as well as tackling congestion, delivering cleaner environments, improved safety and increased levels of physical activity. A proportion of the fund will be allocated to provide continued funding for Bikeability. For the remainder of the funding, we will invite local authorities to develop packages of low cost, high value measures which best meet their local needs and effectively address local issues. Measures could include encouraging walking and cycling, such as those demonstrated in the Cycling Towns and Cities and the "Finding New Solutions" projects.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what quantifiable targets he has to *(a)* increase cycle use and *(b)* reduce accident risk per kilometre travelled by cycle. [20203]

Norman Baker: While there are no quantitative national targets to increase cycle use, the coalition Government are committed to supporting sustainable travel initiatives, including the promotion of cycling. I anticipate cycling will be among the beneficiaries of the £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund I announced recently.

It is primarily for local authorities to take forward actions to increase cycle use and reduce accident risks, including consideration of segregation of cyclists from motor vehicles.

The UK already has some of the safest roads in the world, but the coalition is considering how to make them even safer. We will produce a new strategic framework for road safety that sets out the Government's vision for road safety, national measures, and how we will work with others to achieve this. We will be discussing this with stakeholders and intend to publish a strategy early next year.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated monetary value is of each vacant *(a)* building and *(b)* parcel of land owned by his Department in each region. [16244]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport aims to hold only Core property (i.e. which is needed for the delivery of its business). All Non-Core property (unless it is held pending transport scheme use) will be disposed or re-allocated at the earliest opportunity in a way which is both consistent with official guidance and achieves value for money.

Information in respect of the vacant building and land held by the Department, covering both the Central Department and Executive Agencies, is provided in the following tables.

(a) Building

Region	*Number of sites*	*Value (£)*
East midlands	1	89,412
East of England	5	496,048
North-west	3	340,517
South-east	12	3,235,283
South-west	6	1,479,866
West midlands	9	1,148,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	8	1,886,190

Note:

Data includes dwellings

(b) Land

Region	*Number of sites*	*Value (£)*
East midlands	35	637,287
East of England	47	1,470,633
London	7	19,484
North-east	3	12,583
North-west	40	1,234,550
South-east	90	[1]1,908,365
South-west	38	556,170
West midlands	61	1,043,133
Yorkshire and the Humber	37	2,159,581

[1] Excludes valuation of a site due to be assessed this year.

EU Light Commercial Vehicles Directive

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his policy is on the European Commission's long-term efficiency target proposed in the draft EU Light Commercial Vehicles Directive; [23122]

(2) what his policy is on the inclusion of a long-term target for reductions in emissions in the European Commission's proposal for legislation to reduce levels of carbon dioxide emitted by light commercial vehicles. [23132]

Norman Baker: The UK Government strongly support the inclusion of an ambitious but realistic long-term target in the proposed EU new van CO_2 regulation. The UK's opening negotiating position was 135g/km in 2022, as our analysis shows that this represents the best approach to deliver significant but cost-effective CO_2 savings from vans. However, the UK Government understand that all other member states are negotiating for a 2020 target. Negotiations on this target are ongoing, but it will necessarily be less ambitious than a 2022 target.

Motor Vehicles: Carbon Emissions

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential for replacing petrol and diesel powered road vehicles with vehicles which have lower carbon dioxide emissions; and if he will make a statement. [25671]

Norman Baker: In 2008, the Department for Transport commissioned research to assess the scope of the transport sector to switch to electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The report concluded that, on a whole-life basis and based on the UK's existing national grid mix, electric vehicles have the potential to offer emissions reductions in the order of 40% and that these benefits would improve with decarbonisation of the UK power mix.

The report also found that, among the organisations consulted, a consensus view of a trend toward the electrification of the automobile existed, although there remained an uncertainty as to timings, and proportions of technologies likely to be employed (which include electric, plug-in hybrid, hydrogen fuel cell and diesel electric hybrids). This view is consistent with the consensus industry view as set out in the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team's 2009 'Independent Report on the Future of the Automotive Industry in the UK'.

Notwithstanding the uncertainties around market development, the research commissioned by the Department suggested that, under a mid-range scenario, by 2020 as many as 800,000 electric and plug-in hybrid cars could be on the road.

From January 2011, a number of manufacturers will be bringing electric vehicles capable of motorway speeds and ranges of up to 100 miles to the mass market and we therefore expect sales of electric, and shortly thereafter, plug-in hybrid vehicles, to increase. The industry-consensus view suggests that the introduction of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to the general market could start to be seen from the latter part of this decade.

Shipping: Rescue Services

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation he proposes to undertake in relation to his intention to remove emergency towing vessels following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [26455]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 25 November 2010]*: We have decided that the contract for emergency towing vessels at public expense will not be renewed when it expires in September 2011. Between now and next September, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will discuss with the shipping and wider maritime industries, and with local interested parties, how commercial tug and salvage arrangements could operate to assist ships that get into difficulty in the future.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Domestic Violence

9. **Owen Smith:** To ask the Attorney-General what recent discussions he has had with the Crown Prosecution Service on the prosecution of cases involving allegations of domestic violence. [27084]

The Attorney-General: None, but as I said in my reply to the oral question from the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah), all areas of prosecution policy are kept constantly under review.

Prosecutions: Witnesses

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Attorney-General what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of Crown Prosecution Service expenditure in respect of criminal prosecutions where witnesses failed to attend in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hampshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [27385]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is responsible for the prosecution of most criminal cases in England and Wales.

Although it will depend on the precise evidence a witness is due to give and the possibility of the evidence being received by the court through other means, the failure of a witness to attend court could create a situation where the prosecution cannot continue. If this occurs it is likely that the prosecution either has to offer no evidence (the case is dismissed) or, where a trial hearing is ineffective, it has to be adjourned to another day.

The CPS maintains a record of the primary reasons for unsuccessful outcomes. A summary of the record for 2009-10 where the primary reason was civilian witness non-attendance is shown in the following table:

England and Wales 2009-10

	Subject	*Volume*
Crown Court	Total completed crown court cases	110,146
	Total CC unsuccessful cases owing to witness non-attendance	155
Magistrates Courts	Total completed magistrates court cases	872,585
	Total MAGS unsuccessful cases owing to witness non-attendance	1,080

A summary of the records for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for 2009-10 where the primary reason was civilian witness non-attendance is shown in the following table:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight 2009-10

	Subject	*Volume*
Crown Court	Total completed crown court cases	2,993
	Total CC unsuccessful cases owing to witness non-attendance	6
Magistrates Courts	Total completed magistrates court cases	30,167
	Total MAGS unsuccessful cases owing to witness non-attendance	116

In relation to ineffective trials, records are kept of the primary reason for a trial being ineffective. A summary of records for the crown court in England and Wales and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for 2009-10, where the primary reason was '(civilian) witness absent', is shown in the following table:

Crown Court ineffective trial data: 2009-10

	CPS area		*England and Wales*	
	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	*Percentage of all trials*	*England and Wales*	*Percentage of all trials*
Total trials listed	1,084	—	40,434	—
Trials ineffective	174	16.1	5,246	13.0
Prosecution witness absent: other	22	2.0	936	2.3

A summary of records for the magistrates courts in England and Wales and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for 2009-10 where the primary reason for an ineffective trial was '(civilian) witness absent' is shown in the following table:

Magistrates Courts ineffective trial data: 2009-10

	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	*Percentage of all trials*	*England and Wales*	*Percentage of all trials*
Total trials listed	6,406	—	181,240	—
Total ineffective	1,309	20.4	33,742	18.6
Prosecution witness absent: other	147	2.3	4,722	2.6

Given the broad range of cases prosecuted by the CPS and the range of implications of witness non-attendance, it is not possible to provide an accurate overall cost to the CPS of witnesses failing to attend court. To fully extract the data would incur disproportionate cost.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of cases in which the Crown Prosecution Service called witnesses from abroad resulted in convictions in the latest period for which figures are available. [27386]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases in the magistrates courts, the youth court and the crown courts in England and Wales.

The CPS does not keep a central record of the outcome of cases where a witness from abroad had been called to court to give evidence. More detailed enquiries would require staff to manually sift through all CPS records, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service has spent on calling witnesses from abroad in each of the last five years. [27387]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases in the magistrates courts, the youth court and the crown court in England and Wales.

The CPS accounting system records the value of expenses paid to witnesses for their attendance at courts in England and Wales. According to data extracted from the accounting system, CPS expenditure on foreign witness expenses for the last five years was:

	£
2005-06	877,500
2006-07	757,073
2007-08	733,028
2008-09	848,709
2009-10	795,323

SCOTLAND

Colleges of Education

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the Association of Scotland's Colleges; and what matters were discussed. [26910]

David Mundell: Scotland's colleges participated in a round-table discussion on employment and welfare reform hosted by the Secretary of State on 24 September. He expects to meet representatives of Scotland's colleges soon.

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities; and what matters were discussed. [26913]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State most recently met representatives from COSLA at a round-table meeting he hosted on 24 September to discuss employment and welfare reform.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27504]

David Mundell: There are none.

Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [27670]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not awarded any grants other than the statutory transfer of the grant to the Scottish Consolidated Fund. There are no plans to award any other type of grant in either of the next two years.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much funding his Department has allocated in grants for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding he plans to allocate for 2011-12. [27671]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not award grants other than that granted to the Scottish Consolidated Fund. In 2009-10, £26,929,090,000 was granted to the Scottish Consolidated Fund. To date, £17,136,600,00 has been transferred to the Scottish Consolidated Fund in 2010-11.

Scotland Bill

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with departmental devolution champions on the likely provisions of the Scotland Bill. [26914]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Bill will deliver the coalition Government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution. I have worked closely with my ministerial colleagues across the UK Government while preparing the Scotland Bill. The devolution champions are a network of officials and my officials have engaged closely with their colleagues in other Departments.

Scottish Trades Union Congress

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of the Scottish Trades Union Congress; and what matters were discussed. [26911]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State has met representatives from the Scottish Trades Union Congress on several occasions in the past few months and discussed a range of matters important to Scotland.

Serving Scotland Better: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 782W, on Serving Scotland Better: Scotland, which Scottish Government Ministers he has met to discuss the recommendations of the report of the Commission on Scottish Devolution; and on what date each such meeting took place. [26917]

Michael Moore: I have discussed the coalition Government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution regularly with the Minister for Culture and External Affairs in the Scottish Government and other Scottish Government Ministers.

Worship Grant Scheme

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has discussed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the likely effects in Scotland of the end of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. [27153]

Michael Moore: I have not had any recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. However, the status of the scheme has been reviewed following the spending review and the scheme has been extended for a further four years.

PRIME MINISTER

Afghanistan

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates he has held meetings at Chequers at which Afghanistan was discussed; and who attended each such meeting. [26338]

The Prime Minister: I discussed the situation in Afghanistan during an introductory meeting with the Chiefs of Staff at Chequers on 15 May 2010. I also met President Karzai at Chequers that day.

As I set out during my appearance at the Liaison Committee I held a meeting on Afghanistan at Chequers on 1 June 2010. This was attended by members of the National Security Council and a range of external experts.

A list of membership of the National Security Council is on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/government-business/cabinet-secretariat.aspx

In addition, the seminar was attended by the then Chief of the Defence Staff (Sir Jock Stirrup), Sir Peter Ricketts, Sir William Patey, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Brigadier James Cowan, the right hon. Lord Ashdown, Lt General Sir Graeme Lamb, James Fergusson and my hon. Friends the Members for Gravesham (Mr Holloway) and for Penrith and The Border (Rory Stewart) and supporting officials.

Departmental Responsibilities: Urban Areas

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 565W, on departmental responsibilities: urban areas, on what date he plans to make an announcement on Ministers with responsibility for cities in England. [27307]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 565W.

Enterprise Advisers

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to appoint an enterprise adviser. [27621]

The Prime Minister: The Government are committed to doing everything they can to help and promote enterprise by creating the conditions that enable UK businesses to be successful. On Monday 29 November my right hon. Friends the Chancellor of the Exchequer the Chancellor and the Business Secretary launched the Growth Review. This is a fundamental assessment of what each part of Government are doing to provide the conditions for private sector success and to address the barriers faced by industry.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he intends to introduce sustainability criteria under the Renewables Obligation for the use of solid and gaseous biomass in the generation of renewable heat. [26999]

Charles Hendry: The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the UK's main support mechanism for large-scale renewable electricity generation. The RO also rewards heat through the CHP (combined heat and power) uplift. The CHP uplift gives eligible generators an additional ½ ROC in recognition of the efficiency and carbon savings generating both heat and electricity can offer.

We recently consulted on the introduction of sustainability criteria for the use of solid and gaseous biomass under the Renewables Obligation. The criteria set out in the consultation included a minimum greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel, and general restrictions on the use of materials from land important on carbon or biodiversity grounds. We also proposed that the criteria would be applied to CHP as well as to co-firing or dedicated biomass power plants. The Government response to the consultation is due to be published shortly.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on his proposed alterations to the financial incentives available to participants in the carbon reduction commitment energy efficiency scheme following the spending review 2010. [27197]

Gregory Barker: The decision not to proceed with the previous Administration's policy of revenue recycling in the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme was announced on

20 October. The revenue will be used to support the public finances, including spending on the environment. Since October, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have discussed both this decision and the wider review to simplify the CRC with a range of stakeholders, including participants in the scheme. We published a consultation paper on 17 November proposing changes to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Order principally to delay the start of the second phase of the CRC in order to give time to review and simplify the scheme. We have received written representations from the retail, hospitality, telecoms, food and drink, metals and manufacturing sectors which will be given careful consideration as we look to consider how best to simplify the scheme, so that it can effectively deliver the energy efficiency improvements that are urgently needed.

Climate Change Act 2008

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to report to Parliament on the benefits of greenhouse gas reporting under the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. [24522]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State has commissioned a report to assess the contribution that corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions makes to the UK meeting its climate change objectives. This report will be laid before Parliament before 1 December 2010.

Coal: Mining

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many deep mine coal pits are operating in Great Britain; and what proportion of electricity generated in the UK is produced from coal. [27315]

Charles Hendry: As at 31 December 2009, there were 13 deep mine coal pits operating in the UK. This total is now 12 following Welbeck colliery ceasing production through exhaustion of workable reserves in May 2010.

Source:

Table 2.10, Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2010

In 2009, coal contributed 28% (104,608 GWh) to the UK electricity generation mix (375,663 GWh).

Source:

Table 5.6, Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2010

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25953]

Gregory Barker: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The Department does not hold this information in the format requested. In the period 25 May to 12 November 2010, the Department received 683 ordinary written questions of which 518 (76%) were answered within five sitting days. All 683 questions have now received a substantive answer.

In the same period the Department received 78 named day questions of which 51 (65%) were answered on or before the day for answer. All 78 questions have now received a substantive answer.

The Department does not hold centrally estimates of the cost relating to the answering of parliamentary questions. For information on the annual indexation exercise of the costs conducted by HM Treasury, I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the then Exchequer Secretary (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Electricity Generation: EU Action

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the merits of a pan-European supergrid. [26351]

Charles Hendry: Substantial investment in the electricity networks will be required in the EU over the coming decades in order to move to a low-carbon economy by 2050. We will need a bigger and smarter electricity grid, and new ways of matching supply and demand, including increased interconnection between member states in order to support additional renewable generation.

I therefore welcome the publication by the European Commission on 17 November of a Communication ("A blueprint for an integrated European energy network"). This outlines the Commission's views on what needs to be done across the EU in order to achieve the investment in electricity and gas networks needed. I look forward to having a first exchange of views on this Communication with my fellow Energy Ministers at the Energy Council on 3 December 2010.

In recognition of the need to work together with other countries to develop the infrastructure needed to maximise the renewable energy resources in our region, I also plan to sign on 3 December a Memorandum of Understanding with nine other Ministers on the North Seas Offshore Grid Initiative. This will signal our commitment to investigate the options for more co-ordinated development of offshore grids in the North, Irish and Baltic seas. As an initial contribution to the analysis, my Department recently published a report by SKM setting out the findings of research it commissioned on the costs and benefits of different interconnection options for potential renewable generation projects located outside the UK.

Energy: Housing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the mechanism for accreditation of general builders undertaking retrofitting work under the proposed Green Deal; and what mechanisms will be in place to prevent rogue traders from undertaking such work. [26380]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will be underpinned by a certification scheme. This will set the necessary technical standards for installation and competence levels for installers as well as customer care and warranty requirements .

To ensure that work is carried out to a high standard, all installers operating under the Green Deal will have to adhere to the prescribed certification and skills standard, and to carry a quality mark demonstrating this. We will develop the standard with relevant sectors.

Energy: Prices

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to include in the proposed Energy Company Obligation provisions to ensure greater transparency in respect of the proportion of customers' bills charged to cover the cost to the supplier of that obligation; and if he will make a statement. [26167]

Gregory Barker: We recognise the need to ensure transparency under the future Energy Company Obligation, including the costs. To this end, we will include provisions in the energy security and green economy Bill that will enable greater, more detailed reporting by obligated companies, including details of costs passed through to consumer energy bills.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that minimum standards for tariffs are proposed in the energy security and green economy Bill. [26168]

Gregory Barker: The Energy Security and Green Energy Bill will include powers to require energy suppliers to inform consumers through their bills about the cheapest available tariff to give customers greater control over their energy costs.

To meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem actively monitors the activities of licence holders, including compliance with its recently introduced standards of conduct. These standards require suppliers not to sell products that are inappropriate to a customer's needs or offer products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing.

In a recent open letter to suppliers, Ofgem reminded suppliers of their obligations under these standards. A copy of this letter is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Open_letter%20on%20transparency.pdf

Energy: Rented Housing

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will introduce a minimum energy efficiency standard for privately rented homes and social housing; and if he will make a statement. [26832]

Gregory Barker: There are no current plans to introduce minimum energy efficiency standards for rental accommodation. The Green Deal has the potential to increase the energy efficiency of homes across all housing sectors and will enable a range of innovative energy efficiency finance packages for landlords and tenants alike.

We are also seeking powers in the forthcoming energy security and green economy Bill that, from 2015, could require landlords to make reasonable energy efficiency improvements to their properties. These powers will not apply to social housing as the sector has made the largest improvement in energy efficiency in recent years.

Further ministerial statements will follow in due course, after the energy security and green economy Bill is introduced.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27363]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change spent nothing on entertainment related to the activities of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Fuel Poverty

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 751W, on fuel poverty, what his definition is of reasonably practicable in respect of measures being carried out to eradicate fuel poverty in all households in England by 2016. [27126]

Gregory Barker: What is reasonably practicable in respect of measures being carried out to eradicate fuel poverty in all households in England by 2016 will depend upon the particular measure in question in the particular context. This may include, among others, matters such as the cost of implementing the measure, the effectiveness of the measure, and in respect of heating and insulation measures in particular, the ease of installation and its reliability.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what annual leak rate his Department assumes in its 2010 guidelines for company reporting for residential and commercial air conditioning, including heat pumps, in the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions. [27038]

Gregory Barker: An annual leak rate of 8.5% is used in the 2010 greenhouse gas conversion factors for company reporting for residential and commercial air conditioning, including heat pumps. The source for this rate is the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 1990-2007 (AEA, 2009) where these UK factors were updated following an expert workshop with industry representatives.

Housing: Insulation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he made of the *(a)* level of domestic gas consumption and *(b)* proportion of the change in that level of consumption attributable to the implementation of higher standards in respect of insulation in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [27246]

Gregory Barker: Statistics on annual gas consumption by households are published in the Digest of UK Energy statistics, copies of which are available in the House Library. Table 4.2 of the 2010 edition indicates the following domestic gas consumption levels.

Domestic gas consumption

	GWh
2005	381,879
2006	366,928
2007	352,868
2008	359,554
2009	334,823

Gas consumption can be influenced by a number of factors, including price, external and internal temperatures, age and condition of the boiler and heating system, as well as insulation levels. Between 2005 and 2009 it is estimated that the number of homes with cavity wall insulation has increased from 6.8 million to 10.0 million.

Analysis published by the Energy Saving Trust, available at

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Energy-saving-assumptions

indicates that savings of around £110 can be made per year by adding cavity wall insulation to a gas heated three bedroom semi-detached property; at 3.67p per kWh this is equivalent to a reduction of around 3,000 kWh per year. However, the actual saving will depend on many factors such as house site and socio-economic factors, as well as varying by household type.

Quantitative research is currently being carried out to examine the before and after gas consumption in relation to a variety of property types that have had cavities filled and lofts insulated during recent years, and how these compare to control groups. Findings from this research will be published next year.

Industry Taskforce on Peak Oil and Energy Security

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made by the UK Industry Taskforce on Peak Oil and Energy Security; and if he will make a statement. [27123]

Charles Hendry: The UK Industry Taskforce on Peak Oil and Energy Security is wholly independent of the Government.

Renewable Energy

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding from the public purse his Department has allocated to the development of *(a)* biofuel, *(b)* biomass, *(c)* hydroelectricity, *(d)* solar energy, *(e)* tidal power, *(f)* wave power and *(g)* wind power in each of the last three years; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [25281]

Charles Hendry: The following amounts were spent on support for the development of biofuel, bioenergy, hydroelectricity, solar energy, tidal power, wave power and wind power technologies through the Environmental Transformation Fund and Low Carbon Innovation Funding over the last three financial years.

				Spend (£ million)
		2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
(a)	Advanced Biofuels	—	—	1.0
(b)	Bioenergy including Biomass	6.9	14.7	10.8
(e) and *(f)*	Wave and Tidal Power	0.7	0.7	9.3
(g)	Offshore Wind	12.7	2.4	2.0
	Low Carbon Buildings Programme (Capital)	6.0	12.4	36.6

The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) funds deployment of renewable microgeneration technologies including biomass, hydro, solar energy and wind. Figures for spend from 2006-09 by calendar year are set out in the following table.

					Spend (£)
		2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
(b)	Wood Fuelled Boilers	14,602	157,649	261,952	590,633
(g)	Wind Turbines	76,949	1,129,918	649,011	1,142,520
(d)	Solar Thermal	103,552	1,405,776	1,307,853	2,815,253
(d)	Solar PV	156,778	3,934,422	6,129,489	12,894,930
(c)	Small Scale Hydro	0	13,000	2,500	128,522
(b)	Biomass Stoves	0	102,001	336,461	678,062

2010-11 budgets are as follows.

		Spend (£ million)
		2010-11
(a)	Advanced Biofuels	0.5
(b)	Bioenergy including Biomass	5.3
(e) and *(f)*	Wave and Tidal Power	21.0
(g)	Offshore Wind	16.2
	Low Carbon Buildings Programme (Capital)	37.1

The Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) has also undertaken activity to reduce barriers to deployment across the range of renewable technologies.

The spending review announcement included over £200 million to support the development of innovative energy technologies, of which up to £60 million has been earmarked for offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port locations. The Government are currently developing their detailed plans for the allocation of the remainder of this funding.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an estimate of the number of people who installed renewable energy equipment before July 2009 who will not qualify for higher rate feed-in tariffs. [27007]

Charles Hendry: The Department has estimated that at 15 July 2009, there were approximately 5,000 existing microgeneration installations in the technologies and scales covered by the Feed-in Tariff scheme. Approximately 3,000 of these generators were registered for the Renewables Obligation.

The figure of 5,000 generators is an estimate based on the number of installations that have received grants from the following programmes: Clear Skies, Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1, Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 and the Major PV Demonstration Programme. This figure is probably an underestimate since it does not include generators that did not receive grants under these schemes.

Renewables Obligation

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has assessed the merits of grandfathering bioliquids under the Renewables Obligation separately from, and in advance of, the forthcoming banding review. [26469]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: Through working with the bioliquids industry, officials have gathered data on the costs and benefits of bioliquids derived from wastes and advanced conversion technologies. This will help inform a decision on whether we should grandfather them under the renewables obligation. Analysis of these data is under way and the work will feed into the ongoing banding review. The timing of decisions is now being considered and a timeline will be issued shortly. DECC officials intend to write to those concerned shortly to clarify the timing on decisions to be taken.

Renewables Obligation: Water Power

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether his Department plans to increase the number of renewable obligation certificates awarded for marine energy in England and Wales from two per milliwatt hour to five per milliwatt hour to align the rest of the UK with Scotland; [27298]

(2) what plans he has to review the renewables obligation system in respect of marine energy. [27338]

Charles Hendry: A banding review of renewables obligation support for all technologies began in October this year and any change to the support level for marine energy will be considered as part of this process. Banding reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the correct level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry.

Any changes in support levels will be come into effect on 1 April 2013.

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Renewables UK and *(b)* the micro-generation sector on the (i) future of solar photovoltaics and (ii) review of feed-in tariffs. [27119]

Gregory Barker: The Department has regular contact with a range of interested parties on these issues. Renewables UK and the microgeneration sector have both been directly involved in an ongoing collaborative consultation exercise with the Department launched on 12 July 2010, to engage with industry on the preparation of a new Microgeneration Strategy. The strategy is aimed at addressing the non-financial barriers to the future of microgeneration in the UK. Renewables UK and the microgeneration sector were also both represented at a briefing and discussion session on feed-in tariffs (FITs) on 24 November 2010. The meeting focused on the spending review commitments to review FITs, including solar photovoltaics.

Warm Front Scheme

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households likely to participate in the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [27195]

Gregory Barker: The Department has estimated that the Warm Front Scheme will assist approximately 150,000 households in 2010-11. As announced in the spending review, DECC will fund a smaller, more targeted Warm Front Scheme over the next two years as we transition to the full roll-out of the Green Deal. We will shortly be consulting on proposed changes to Warm Front to ensure the eligibility criteria reflect our determination to focus on the most vulnerable households.

The Department has estimated that Warm Front will assist approximately 57,000 households in 2011-12, and 50,000 in 2012-13.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group on the changes made to the Warm Front programme following the Spending Review 2010. [27196]

Gregory Barker: I met with Derek Lickorish and Gill Owen, chair and deputy chair of the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, following the announcement of the spending review. Our discussion covered a number of issues related to fuel poverty, including the Warm Front Scheme.

Warm Front will continue until the Green Deal is launched. We will work to improve the cost-effectiveness of the Warm Front Scheme by ensuring that Warm Front will be a better targeted programme to help the most vulnerable receive free or subsidised heating and insulation measures. We will be consulting to make sure that the eligibility criteria reflect this.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to adopt a general proximity rule for land-based wind turbine planning applications. [26601]

Charles Hendry: No, for the reasons given to my hon. Friend the Member for Selby and Ainsty (Nigel Adams) by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Communications and Local Government, the hon. Member for Bromley and Chiselhurst (Robert Neill) on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 461W.

TREASURY

BBC

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent meetings *(a)* officials and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have had with the director-general of the BBC; and whether pensions were discussed at those meetings. [25016]

Danny Alexander: Treasury officials met with the director-general of the BBC on 15 April 2010 to discuss the BBC's Strategy Review.

Child Benefit

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the principle of independent taxation will apply to his proposed changes to child benefit. [26951]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wallasey (Ms Eagle) on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 267W.

Child Tax Credit

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women will be affected by the changes to child tax credit announced in the June 2010 Budget by 2014-15; [26775]

(2) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women will be affected by uprating working tax credits by the consumer price index by 2014-15; [26776]

(3) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women will be affected by the freeze to child benefit announced in the June 2010 Budget by 2014-15. [26779]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

Combined Online Information System

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* start-up and *(b)* annual running cost of the Combined Online Information System database. [27154]

Danny Alexander: The Combined Online Information System (COINS) was developed 2002-05 by extending an existing application, and implemented during 2005, commencing in May of that year.

The identified cost to the Treasury of development of the COINS system to its implementation is £2.251 million.

The estimated annual running costs are £800,000 per annum (excluding VAT).

Consumer Prices Index

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to include housing costs in the calculation of the consumer prices index. [26501]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor has asked the Governor of the Bank of England for his views on how the process to include housing costs in the consumer prices index (CPI) can be accelerated. The independent Office for National Statistics (ONS), along with the national statistical offices of other European member states is working with the Statistical Office of the European Communities, to assess the most appropriate approach for including an index of owner-occupier housing costs in the CPI in the future. Alongside this international agenda, the CPI Advisory Committee recommended to the UK Statistics Authority in its annual report on 3 November that ONS develops housing cost indices using the net acquisitions and rental equivalence approaches.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he has travelled *(a)* first and *(b)* standard class by train on official duties since 7 May 2010. [18605]

Justine Greening: Since May 2010 the Chancellor has travelled first class on Eurostar on five occasions with one standard class trip within the UK. Ministers and officials are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. This may include first class travel where the journey lasts three or more hours, there are disability or other special needs requirements, security concerns or where first class travel is less than the overall cheapest ticket for standard class.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast he has made of the effect on his Department's expenditure of the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance in each of the next four financial years. [25228]

Justine Greening: The spending review announced the end of payment of the mobility component of disability living allowance for all state funding residents in care homes after 28-days. The mobility component will continue to be paid to other DLA recipients.

The savings scored at the Budget for the next four financial years are:

	£million
2011-12	0
2012-13	60
1213-14	130
2014-15	135

The measure will not apply to residents who meet the full costs of the care home themselves and they will continue to be paid both the care and mobility components of disability living allowance they may be entitled to.

Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs.

including any assessed mobility needs. So an individual's care, support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding.

Economic Growth: North East

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely level of growth in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in the North East in each year of the spending review period. [27633]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR's forecast does not include a sub-national forecast.

The OBR published a new economic forecast on 29 November 2010, which can be found online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk

This includes forecasts for total Government expenditure and employment.

While forecasts for growth are not made at a sub-national level, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) annually publishes data on Gross Value Added for the English regions. This is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14650

and the next publication is expected in December 2010.

Health Centres: Christchurch

Mr Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the sale of the lease for the former Saxon Square Health Centre in Christchurch; what his Department's role is in *(a)* negotiating and *(b)* approving the sale; when he expects his Department's decisions on the sale to be communicated to the Department of Health; what the reasons are for the time taken to date; and if he will make a statement. [27379]

Danny Alexander: The Treasury reviews spending decisions to protect the taxpayers' interest by ensuring they are value for money and affordable. It endeavours to reply promptly and has already communicated its views on this case to the Department of Health.

Infrastructure Projects: Public Expenditure

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to encourage the development of asset-backed vehicles for accessing private capital for infrastructure projects in local government during the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [21255]

Danny Alexander: It is for local authorities to determine the most appropriate and best value for money means of financing local infrastructure projects. The Government are committed to the principle that local authorities make these judgments for themselves. Accessing private capital through asset-backed vehicles is an option available to local authorities where such vehicles do not go beyond a local authority's existing powers.

Member: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton dated 4 October 2010 with regard to Mrs V. Delahunt, transferred from the Department for Communities and Local Government. [27623]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton dated 2 September 2010, with regard to Mr R. Hamilton. [27624]

Mr Hoban: I replied to the right hon. Member on 13 October 2010—copy being provided.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 7 October 2010 and 9 November 2010 regarding child benefit. [27626]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mortgages

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has assessed the effect of the mortgage market proposals made by the Financial Services Authority on small businesses with a turnover under £1 million; [27034]

(2) whether he has assessed the effect of the Financial Services Authority's mortgage market review proposals on the *(a)* availability of mortgages and *(b)* operation of the housing market; and if he will make a statement; [27035]

(3) whether he has discussed with the Council of Mortgage Lenders the proposals on responsible lending made by the Financial Services Authority and their likely effect on the housing market. [27036]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is conducting a wholesale review of mortgage regulation in the UK, the 'Mortgage Market Review'.

The Government believe that it is right for the FSA to ensure that the UK mortgage market has responsible lending practices. We will continue to work with the FSA, mortgage lenders and intermediaries, and consumer groups to ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants.

The FSA published 'Mortgage Market Review: Responsible Lending' in July which set out the detail of some of the proposed changes. This forms one part of an ongoing consultation process.

The FSA has stated that it will fully assess the potential impact on the market before implementing any rule changes. Further, the FSA will consult in 2011 on transitional measures to help mitigate any adverse effects on existing borrowers.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Private Finance Initiative

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has plans to secure savings to the public purse from renegotiation of private finance initiative contracts; [25703]

(2) if he will have discussions with private finance initiative providers to schools and hospitals for the purposes of encouraging them to renegotiate elements of their contracts in response to the reductions in public expenditure during the comprehensive spending review period. [25719]

Danny Alexander: The Government are committed to cutting the deficit by making savings across a broad range of areas. Private finance initiative (PFI) projects are not immune from this process. HM Treasury has identified potential areas for savings in operational PFI projects and officials have met with the major equity holders and other key industry players, including those responsible for schools and hospitals.

Public Expenditure

Michael Dugher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place for the transfer of budgets between spending Departments following a reallocation of departmental responsibilities; whether his Department is required to approve such transfers; and if he will make a statement. [26334]

Danny Alexander: The arrangements for machinery of government changes, including any transfer of resources, are detailed in the "Machinery of government: best practice handbook" published by the Cabinet Office. This publication is available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/332838/mog-handbook.pdf

Public Sector: Pay

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the fair pay review to report on the feasibility of paying salaries at the level of the London living wage across the public sector including contracted staff in Government Departments; and if he will make a statement. [25403]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 19 November 2010]*: The Government supports fair and decent pay from public sector contractors and is looking at contractor policy to ensure both value for the taxpayer and fairness for those whose jobs support the work of Government.

Will Hutton's Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector is due to report to the Chancellor and Prime Minister by March 2011 on promoting pay fairness in the public sector by tackling disparities between the lowest and highest paid organisations. The review will produce an interim report, expected in December. The review will comprise robust, evidence based analysis of the scale of the problem and recommendations on how to introduce a public sector pay multiple that would mean that no public sector manager can earn over 20 times more than the lowest person in their organisation. The Terms of Reference can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
indreview_willhutton_fairpay.htm

Taxation: Offshore Industry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has plans to introduce a windfall tax on oil and gas extraction companies. [24632]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review

Taxation: Private Rented Housing

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many landlords in the private rented sector in *(a)* Hyndburn, *(b)* Haslingden and *(c)* England have been required by HM Revenue and Customs to settle taxation arrears in the latest period for which figures are available; what the monetary value of such arrears was; and how many such landlords are resident (i) in the UK and (ii) overseas. [26182]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold information broken down geographically as requested on taxation arrears for landlords with rental property income in any period.

For the whole of the UK, HMRC holds data showing the additional tax assessed on landlords as a result of compliance activity via its National Property Project. The project generates the vast majority of interventions undertaken by HMRC into landlords for misdeclaration of rental income.

In the year ended March 2010, the additional tax assessed as a result of those interventions totals approximately £47 million.

HMRC does not hold data on what amount of tax relating specifically to landlords' rental income remains outstanding.

HMRC also does not hold information on the residence status of those landlords.

VAT: Electric Vehicles

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the potential effect of the implementation of the proposed increase in the standard rate of value added tax on retail sales of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles in the next three years. [26346]

Mr Gauke: HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs do not normally assess the impact of VAT rate changes on individual products; no assessment has been carried out in this case.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish a Green Paper on the long-term strategy for her Department's policies affecting farming and its associated industries; and if she will make a statement. [26879]

Mr Paice: We have no plans to publish a Green Paper on DEFRA's long-term strategy for farming and its associated industries. DEFRA's strategic priorities were recently set out in its Business Plan.

DEFRA will work to ensure a resilient food chain that delivers a secure, environmentally sustainable and healthy supply of food, with improved animal welfare standards. We are determined to support and develop British farming so that it can capture a greater share of the available market—domestically and internationally—by maximising its productivity and competitiveness.

Agriculture: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's budget is for promoting farming *(a)* in England and *(b)* overseas for 2011-12. [25544]

Mr Paice: The DEFRA promotional budget for farming in England in 2011-12 has yet to be decided. Promotion of English farming overseas is led by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) which is a joint operation between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Agriculture: Non-domestic Rates

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the monetary value to the farming industry of exemptions from business rates in the latest period for which figures are available. [26978]

Mr Paice: The most recent estimate of the monetary value of the agricultural exemption from business rates was produced in the Lyons inquiry into local government (March 2007. This can be found at:

http://www.lyonsinquiry.org.uk/

This estimated the value to the English farming industry at between £300 million and £450 million.

Agriculture: Personnel

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in each county in England were employed in agriculture in each of the last 10 years. [26965]

Mr Paice: A full spreadsheet showing the number of people employed in agriculture by county in England from 2000-09 has been deposited in the House Library.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many disputes relating to the Single Farm Payment scheme there have been in each year since 2008. [25358]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has had the following numbers of cases, as reported in the agency's annual reports and accounts for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10, referred to its single payments scheme appeal process.

Financial year	*Number*
2008-09	432
2009-10	418
2010-11 to 31 October 2010	194

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the use of prime agricultural land for growing crops as a feedstock for anaerobic digesters. [26134]

Mr Paice: The Government have given a commitment to deliver an increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion.

We recognise that, at farm scale, some energy crops may be required in combination with slurries to ensure the efficient operation of the digester. Such crops can be grown as part of the normal agricultural rotation. Furthermore, there is land available which is not suitable for the production of food crops but which may be used to supply energy crops. It is not our policy to encourage energy crops-based anaerobic digestion, particularly where these crops are grown to the exclusion of food producing crops.

Air Pollution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effect on levels of polluting emissions from business operations of her Department's guidance to business on reporting on emissions. [23728]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has commissioned a report to assess the contribution that corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions makes to the UK meeting its climate change objectives. This report will be laid before Parliament by 1 December 2010.

Badgers

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to inform the public in advance of any badger culling activities sanctioned by the Government. [27453]

Mr Paice: A public consultation is currently under way and will close on 8 December. The consultation outlines the Government's proposal on badger control and seeks views from the public on this proposal. Following the consultation, a decision on the Government's approach will be made and Ministers will make a public announcement in early 2011.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new evidence *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department has evaluated on bovine tuberculosis since the publication of the Krebs report on bovine tuberculosis in 2007. [26322]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Since 2007, DEFRA has spent over £24 million on research and development in order to gather evidence to inform the bovine tuberculosis (bTB) control programme[1]. Key pieces of evidence that have emerged through this research programme include:

information on the safety and efficacy of candidate vaccine products for both badgers and cattle

further data on the impact of badger culling on bTB incidence in cattle, including on-going analysis of TB incidence in cattle in the Randomised Badger Culling Trial areas

the output of computer modelling studies which simulate the spread of bTB and evaluate potential control options

an assessment of the effectiveness of husbandry measures in reducing badger visits to farm buildings

information on the performance of potential novel diagnostic tests, and potential improvements to existing tests, for use in cattle, badgers or environmental samples

further information on badger ecology and the epidemiology of TB in the badger

an evaluation of the impact on farmer behaviour of changes in cattle control measures

preliminary data on the genetics of resistance to bTB infection in cattle

This evidence is publicly available in the reports of these projects on the DEFRA website.

[1] Figure covers period from April 2007-March 2010

Carbon Emissions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress she has made on proposals for mandatory reporting of carbon emissions by UK-listed companies; and if she will make a statement; [23552]

(2) from which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals she has received representations on the mandatory reporting of carbon emissions by UK-listed companies since 6 May 2010; and if she will make a statement; [23553]

(3) what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the mandatory reporting of carbon emissions by UK-listed companies; and if she will make a statement. [23554]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 12 November 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 319W.

DEFRA has received numerous representations on this issue from members of the public and several large groups and organisations, including the Carbon Disclosure Project, the Co-operative Group, WWF-UK, Christian Aid, the Aldersgate Group and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

My noble Friend Lord Henley has had discussions with the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) on the matter of corporate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by UK companies.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25490]

Richard Benyon: The cost of press cuttings for each of the last 12 months for DEFRA and the Rural Payments Agency, the Environment Agency, Natural England, British Waterways, the Marine Management Organisation and those parts of the Forestry Commission that are funded by the UK Government are as follows. Executive agencies and NDPBs not listed do not receive a press cuttings service.

The Department including its executive agencies

Core DEFRA

November 2009: £16,117.83
December 2009: £17,509.17
January 2010: £7,625.70
February 2010: £3,621.01
March 2010: £4,908.14
April 2010: £4,082.04
May 2010: £4,459.21
June 2010: £4,811.64
July 2010: £3,953.36
August 2010: £5,429.26
September 2010: £5,489.90
October 2010: £6,063.64

Rural Payments Agency

The Rural Payments Agency has an annual subscription of £6,960 for its press cuttings service, with additional monthly costs as follows.

November 2009: £235.58
December 2009: £410.73
January 2010 :£357.61
February 2010: £357.61
March 2010: £386.62
April 2010: £383.12
May 2010: £451.08
June 2010: £367.80
July 2010: £412.11
August 2010: £229.94
September 2010: £300.90
October 2010: £236.09

Non-departmental public bodies

Environment Agency

November 2009: £8,582.47
December 2009: £8,241.58
January 2010: £7,422.30
February 2010: £7,364.56
March 2010: £7,239.8
April 2011: £6,970.45

May 2010: £6,418.50
June 2010: £6,857.94
July 2010: £8,115.91
August 2010: £6,911.11
September 2010: £6,985
October 2010: £7,240

Natural England

November 2009: £4,595
December 2009: £3,847
January 2010: £3,661
February 2010: £4,191
March 2010: £2,327
April 2010: £4,320
May 2010: £3,747
June 2010: £4,222
July 2010: £2,228
August 2010: £319
September 2010: £319
October 2010: £319

Marine Management Organisation

Figures are from March 2010 onwards, when the organisation was formed.

March 2010: £395.02
April 2010: £223.16
May 2010: £144.46
June 2010: £214.90
July 2010: £264.16
August 2010: £554.12
September 2010: £362.14
October 2010: £460.94

British Waterways

November 2009: £2,576.14
December 2009: £2,082.12
January 2010: £2,044.86
February 2010: £1,196.70
March 2010: £1,493.90
April 2010: £1,322.70
May 2010: £1,164.30
June 2010: £994.70
July 2010: £1,868.10
August 2010: £1,434.30
September 2010: £1,612.50
October 2010: £1,788.90

Forestry Commission (combined figures for Forestry Commission England, Forest Research and Forestry Commission Great Britain)

November 2009: £1,168.75
December 2009: £1,168.75
January 2010: £1,168.75
February 2010: £1,168.75
March 2010: £1,168.75
April 2010: £1,168.75
May 2010: £1,168.75
June 2010: £1,168.75
July 2010: £1,192.92
August 2010: £1,168.75
September 2010: £1,168.75
October 2010: £1,168.75

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations sponsored by her Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24376]

Mr Paice: The Department revoked the following 45 statutory instruments between 1 May and 4 November 2010:

1. The Commons Registration (Publicity) Regulations 1966
2. The Commons Registration (Objections and Maps) (Amendment) Regulations 1970
3. The Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971
4. The Commons Registration (Second Period References) Regulations 1973
5. The Veterinary Surgery (Epidural Anaesthesia) Order 1992
6. The Veterinary Surgery (Rectal Ultrasound Scanning of Bovines) Order 2002
7. The Beet Seed (England) Regulations 2002
8. The Fodder Plant Seed (England) Regulations 2002
9. The Cereal Seed (England) Regulations 2002
10. The Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) Regulations 2002
11. The Vegetable Seed (England) Regulations 2002
12. The Seed (Registration, Licensing and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2002
13. The Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003
14. The Beet Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
15. The Cereal Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
16. The Fodder Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
17. The Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
18. The Vegetable Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
19. The Seed (Registration, Licensing and Enforcement) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
20. The Beet Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
21. The Cereal Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
22. The Fodder Plant (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
23. The Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
24. The Vegetable Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
25. The Seed (Registration, Licensing and Enforcement) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
26. The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) Regulations 2006
27. The Seed (England) (Amendments for Tests and Trials etc) Regulations 2006
28. The Cereal Seed (England) and Fodder Plant (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2006
29. The Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) Order 2007
30. Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) (Amendment) Order 2007
31. The Commons Registration (Objection and Maps) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007
32. The Commons Registration (General) (Amendment) (England) (No 2) Regulations 2007

33. The Commons Registration (General) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2007

34. The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

35. The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2007

36. The Seed (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2007

37. The Ecodesign for Energy-Using Products Regulations 2007

38. The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

39. The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009

40. The Seed (Conservation Varieties Amendments) (England) Regulations 2009

41. The Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (England) Order 2009

42. Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) (Amendment) Order 2009

43. The Ecodesign for Energy-Using Products (Amendment) Regulations 2009

44. The Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) (England) Regulations 2009

45. The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (England) Order 2010

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new regulations sponsored by her Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24491]

Mr Paice: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Department has not sponsored the introduction of any primary legislation since 1 May 2010.

(b) The Department made the following 31 statutory instruments between 1 May and 4 November 2010:

1. The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) Regulations 2010

2. The Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products Regulations 2010

3. The Seed Marketing Regulations 2010

4. The Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (England) Order 2010

5. The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) (Amendment) Order 2010

6. The Commons Registration (Amendment and Miscellaneous Revocations) Regulations 2010

7. The Commons Act 2006 (Commencement No 1 and Savings (England and Wales) and Commencement No 5 (England) (Amendment)) Order 2010

8. The Flood Risk Management Functions Order 2010

9. The Water Use (Temporary Bans) Order 2010

10. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Commencement No 4 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010

11. The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (England) (No 2) Order 2010

12. The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2010

13. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010

14. The Companies (Disclosure of Address) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

15. The Public Rights of Way (Combined Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

16. The Marketing of Fruit Plant Material Regulations 2010

17. The Rural Development (Enforcement) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

18. The Seal Products Regulations 2010

19. The Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) Order 2010

20. The Veterinary Surgery (Epidural Anaesthesia of Bovines) Order 2010

21. The Veterinary Surgery (Rectal Ultrasound Scanning of Bovines) Order 2010

22. The Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Appeals) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

23. The Coastal Access Reports (Consideration and Modification Procedure) (England) Regulations 2010

24. The Organic Products (Amendment) Regulations 2010

25. The Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

26. The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

27. The Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) (England) Regulations 2010

28. The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010

29. The Fishing Boats (Electronic Transmission of Fishing Activities Data) (England) Scheme 2010

30. The Seed Potatoes (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

31. The Plant Health (England) (Amendment) Order 2010

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many and what proportion of Questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to her Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25951]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate she has made of the average cost to her Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25952]

Richard Benyon: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

May 2010 to 12 November 2010

	Total received	Answered on named day (percentage)
Named day	202	74

May 2010 to 12 November 2010

	Total received	*Within seven days (percentage)*	*Within 14 days (percentage)*
Ordinary written	810	88	96

The average cost of answering a written question is £154.

There are no named day PQs that have not yet received a substantive answer.

Elephants: Animal Welfare

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on the protection of African and Asian elephants in each country in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [25143]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has contributed the following funds towards elephant conservation over the past three years:

Financial year	*Initiative*	*Amount (£)*
2007-08	7th Dialogue Meeting of African Elephant Range States	10,000
	ETIS[1]	30,000
	IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group	30,000
	Darwin Initiative project: capacity building to alleviate human-elephant conflict in Kenya	73,700
	Darwin Initiative project: Conservation of the Bornean Elephant, Malaysia	74,039
	Darwin Initiative project: Afro-Asian Elephant Community Conservation Network, Thailand	53,818
	Darwin Initiative project: building capacities for mitigating human-elephant conflict in Assam, India	58,500
2008-09	MIKE[1]/ETIS	45,000
	Darwin Initiative project: capacity building to alleviate human-elephant conflict in Kenya	79,603
	Darwin Initiative project: Conservation of the Bornean Elephant, Malaysia	28,740
	Darwin Initiative project: Afro-Asian Elephant Community Conservation Network, Thailand	6,126
	Darwin Initiative project: building capacities for mitigating human-elephant conflict in Assam, India	75,412
2009-10	MIKE/ETIS	45,000
	Darwin Initiative project: capacity building to alleviate human-elephant conflict in North Kenya	39,251
	Darwin Initiative project: Enhancing ETIS to guide Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)policy	32,071
	Darwin fellowship: a MSc in conservation biology to help sustain a human-elephant conflict alleviation and management programme (previously funded by the Darwin Initiative) in Kenya	20,910
	Darwin Initiative project: Building capacities for mitigating human-elephant conflict in Assam, India	62,350
	Darwin Initiative project: Securing human-elephant coexistence in Sumatra, Indonesia	98,800
	Total	863,320

[1] MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) and ETIS (Elephant Trade Information System) are monitoring tools used by Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to track illegal activities involving elephants.

Notes:

1. Except where detailed in the table, DEFRA's funding has not been country-specific.
2. In addition to these amounts, DEFRA has spent nearly £700,000 on projects during the past three years which may indirectly benefit the elephant.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average annual income of *(a)* farmers and *(b)* hill farmers in (i) England and (ii) Cumbria was in each year since 1997. [26964]

Mr Paice: The following tables show farm business income[1] (FBI) for England and Cumbria for all farm types and for grazing livestock farms in the less favoured areas (LFA). Farm business income is the most robust measure of income but is not available prior to 2003-04. Equivalent data are also shown for net farm income[2] (NFI).

[1] Farm business income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[2] Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse alone for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. An imputed rent is deducted for owner-occupied farms as is a charge for other unpaid labour.

Source:

Farm Business Survey, England: The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

All farms

	England		*Cumbria*	
	Net farm income	*Farm business income*	*Net farm income*	*Farm business income*
2009-10	31,500	43,300	16,600	27,400
2008-09	41,600	50,900	22,400	30,500
2007-08	38,600	48,100	17,800	25,600
2006-07	26,700	34,400	6,700	15,600
2005-06	21,100	28,600	19,100	18,500
2004-05	21,200	28,300	18,400	18,600
2003-04	29,500	36,800	17,800	18,400
2002-03	17,300	n/a	18,800	n/a

	All farms			
	England		*Cumbria*	
	Net farm income	*Farm business income*	*Net farm income*	*Farm business income*
2001-02	14,900	n/a	22,800	n/a
2000-01	10,600	n/a	14,300	n/a
1999-2000	8,700	n/a	9,100	n/a
1998-99	11,500	n/a	10,600	n/a
1997-98	15,200	n/a	14,500	n/a

	LFA grazing livestock			
	England		*Cumbria*	
	Net farm income	*Farm business income*	*Net farm income*	*Farm business income*
2009-10	15,600	22,200	12,600	18,000
2008-09	11,900	17,100	4,800	9,200
2007-08	5,000	10,400	6,000	9,800
2006-07	6,100	10,500	2,200	8,800
2005-06	11,800	15,800	15,700	15,100
2004-05	13,400	16,200	19,600	18,900
2003-04	15,000	17,400	17,500	16,200
2002-03	17,400	n/a	17,200	n/a
2001-02	7,400	n/a	17,700	n/a
2000-01	5,900	n/a	14,200	n/a
1999-2000	5,600	n/a	10,700	n/a
1998-99	6,200	n/a	12,400	n/a
1997-98	12,700	n/a	21,500	n/a

Fisheries: Licensing

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the revenue raised from fishing licences in the last five years was spent on fisheries enhancement and management; and if she will make a statement. [26504]

Richard Benyon: All revenue received by the Environment Agency (EA) from fishing licences is invested into activities to achieve outcomes for fisheries. The figures in the table show where the EA will spend the income from rod licences for the current year (2010-11). The proportion of rod licence income spent on each of the four headings in the table was similar in each of the last five years.

	£ million
Regional and area delivery—operational teams	18
National Office—includes evidence, communications, national fisheries	2.1
Once Only Delivery—rod licence sales and prosecution, fish health, corporate information services, legal	3.4
Support Services—finance, HR, facilities, procurement	1.8
Total	25.3

Hydroelectric Power

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the potential effects of small-scale hydroschemes on migratory fish returning to their spawning headstreams; and if she will make a statement. [26234]

Richard Benyon: No discussions have taken place between my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on that specific issue. As a member of the Government's Renewable Energy Deployment Environmental Issues Project Board, DEFRA is working, together with DECC and other Government Departments and agencies, to ensure that the objectives of the EU renewable energy directive are met, while continuing to meet obligations on nature conservation and the environment.

Livestock

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date her Department's next conference with stakeholders on sustainability in the livestock industry will be held. [25045]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 24 November 2010]*: DEFRA officials meet regularly with stakeholders in the livestock industry to discuss the sustainability of our meat and dairy sectors.

In particular, regular meetings with industry contacts are held to take forward product roadmaps, and the environmental milestones contained therein, which are owned by the UK's beef and sheep meat, dairy, and pigmeat sectors.

I intend to be chairing a meeting of the Dairy Supply Chain Forum and a review of the Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force in the next two months, where sustainability issues will be discussed. DEFRA's Food Policy Unit also holds discussions with food businesses on issues surrounding the resilience of our food system.

Additionally, I have assured the House of the willingness of either the Secretary of State or myself to participate in a stakeholder-convened conference to examine the current state of sustainability in our livestock industry should a suitable event be organised in 2011.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* cattle and *(b)* sheep in each county in England in each year since 1997. [26967]

Mr Paice: A full spreadsheet showing the number of cattle and sheep on agricultural holdings by county in England from 1997 to 2009 has been deposited in the House Library.

Local Government Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on local authorities of absorbing Framework Funding into the revenue support grant. [25258]

Mr Paice: It is too early to tell what impact changes in funding resulting from the comprehensive spending review will have on specific DEFRA activities. It is for local authorities to decide what resources they want to allocate to their various local priorities. Improved standards of animal welfare remain a Government priority.

Milk: Labelling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it a requirement that milk produced in super dairies is clearly labelled with information on its production to assist consumer choice. [26197]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 24 November 2010]*: There are no plans to do so.

National Park Authorities

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of national park authorities' planning departments in each of the last two years. [27004]

Richard Benyon: This information is not centrally held by DEFRA, but will be available in each of the national park authorities' annual report and accounts.

Pigs: Pets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review the adequacy of the criteria for the issuing of licences for the keeping of micro pigs as pets. [26617]

Mr Paice: All pigs including those kept as pets are subject to the same welfare and disease control measures as pigs kept in commercial livestock herds. We have published guidance to assist those new to pig-keeping to understand their responsibilities and the steps they need to follow to register. Additionally, Animal Health will shortly publish guidance specifically targeting prospective keepers of micro-pigs.

The keeping of pigs requires registration with the Rural Payments Agency and specifically as a pig keeper with Animal Health. The existing registration process is proportionate and, together with the guidance to new pig keepers, is a practical level of intervention. However, both the Rural Payments Agency and Animal Health keep these systems under review.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will commission research into the potential health effects on children of households keeping micro pigs as pets. [26618]

Mr Paice: Pigs, as with many other animals, can be affected by a variety of diseases that can pass to humans. The risk from such zoonotic diseases is known and there would appear to be no case for special study.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) already published information on zoonotic diseases, and it is for those people considering keeping pigs to take account of the risks before committing to keep pigs or other animals. Whilst standard hygiene practices will minimise the likelihood of people contracting disease from animals kept as pets, it is also important the keepers ensure their animals are healthy, fed appropriate diets and kept in a suitable environment to maintain the animal's welfare and reduce its susceptibility to disease. They should also seek veterinary advice if they believe the animal is unwell.

Parents and guardians should take into account the likely vulnerability of children to infection, and the difficulty in getting them to observe good hygiene practices when deciding whether to keep any animal, including pigs.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will discuss with animal welfare charities the welfare of micro pigs kept as pets. [26619]

Mr Paice: Officials will be discussing the issue of micro pigs with the RSPCA at their next biannual working group.

Responsibilities for the welfare of animals is clear and there are many routes for potential keepers of pet pigs to obtain guidance. The keeping of pigs as pets is allowed subject to adhering to good practice for their health and welfare but if welfare groups and pig industry bodies wish to prepare additional guidance on best practice we would be willing to consider its adoption as DEFRA guidance.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the provision of local authority shelters for micro pigs abandoned by their owners. [26703]

Mr Paice: DEFRA have published a "Guide for New Keepers of pigs" in order to assist keepers in understanding their obligations to identify and report the movements of pigs as required by the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movements) Order (PRIMO). Keepers have responsibility for the health and welfare of their animals and abandoning pet pigs would be a breach of these responsibilities. Whilst the guidance will be helpful to those contemplating keeping pigs, or already with pigs as pets, it is very clearly the responsibility the pig keeper to ensure pigs are not abandoned and for those selling pigs as pets to ensure the new owner is aware of these responsibilities prior to purchase. There are many industry and other groups able to provide advice to those who find they are no longer able to care for a pig and it is important that keepers seek advice on options open to them. Local authorities and the RSPCA already have working practices to deal with stray animals.

Public Sector: Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to ensure that public bodies source more food from British farmers. [22519]

Mr Paice: One of the Government's priorities is to support and develop British farming and encourage sustainable food production. To achieve this they need to be seen to lead by example and encourage sustainable food procurement by central Government Departments and the wider public sector. In support of this the Government have made a commitment to source food, subject to no overall increase in costs, meeting British or equivalent standards of production.

We know that some Departments are already buying a high proportion of food that meets British or equivalent standards of production and therefore it should be possible for others to do the same. DEFRA will be working to help all Departments achieve this goal through guidance and learning from best practice.

The Government are also developing criteria for Government Buying Standards for food, covering sustainability of food and catering operations as well as nutrition, which will be mandatory for central Government Departments and will be promoted to the wider public sector.

Government procurement has to comply with EU and UK legislation which is intended to prevent 'buy national' policies and encourage free trade and equal access to markets. Any action in contradiction to these principles would run a high risk of legal challenge and would be contrary to the Government's wider public procurement policy.

Rights of Way

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what change there was to the number of miles of statutory rights of way available to *(a)* pedestrians, *(b)* cyclists and *(c)* horse riders and carriage drivers between 1 January 1997 and 1 January 2010. [26844]

Richard Benyon: The management of public rights of way is the responsibility of local highway authorities and DEFRA does not collate national information on the lengths of footpaths, bridleways and byways.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that any future amendment to planning regulations will not reduce the *(a)* length of and *(b)* entitlement to use of existing rights of way. [26845]

Richard Benyon: The effect of development on a public right of way is a material consideration in the determination of applications for planning permission. Current statutory procedures enable a public right of way to be either stopped up or diverted depending on the circumstances of each case. There are no plans to change this.

EU: Food Labelling

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to oppose the provision contained in amendment 205 of the European Parliament proposal to require label information on the kosher slaughter method; and if she will make a statement. [26610]

Mr Paice: Generally we believe people should know what they are buying in shops or when they are eating out and we are discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers an informed choice about the food they buy. This may include information about the method of slaughter. However, we do not consider amendment 205 of the food information regulation the correct way to address this.

Instead, we would wish to see this considered in the wider context of animal welfare and method of slaughter labelling.

River Trent: Hydroelectric Power

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Environment Agency granted licences to the Small Hydro Company to allow for the construction of two hydropower plants on the River Trent in Sawley and Gunthorpe; for what reasons the provisions of the licences allowed fish kill; and if she will make a statement. [26233]

Richard Benyon: Following in depth discussions with the developer, and in consultation with customers, licences for schemes on the River Trent at Gunthorpe and Sawley were issued to the Small Hydro Company on 20 October 2010. These licences take account of the standards set out in the Environment Agency's (EA) Hydropower Good Practice Guide to ensure adequate environmental protection of relevant habitats and species.

The licences contain strict conditions to protect fish populations. These conditions require the provision of screens, fish deterrents and the maintenance of adequate flows. The EA has added a further safeguard by retaining a right to shut down the operation of the schemes if they cause significant fish mortality. Effective remedial action would then be required by the operator before operations could restart.

Rivers

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to improve summer flows on chalk streams; and if she will make a statement. [26238]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency assesses the sustainability of water resources in England, including chalk streams, to inform its future management of abstractions, with the aim of ensuring no further deterioration of conservation status.

Chalk streams are designated a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP).

UKBAP has set out three priorities for chalk streams:

maintain the characteristic plants and animals of chalk rivers, including their winterbourne (headwater) stretches;

restore water quality, flows and habitat diversity;

identify cost-effective means of restoring damaged river reaches.

Where over-abstraction has occurred, the Environment Agency can take action through its Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme. Restoration solutions can include licence changes as well as in-river modifications.

Securing water resources for the future will be a key theme in the upcoming water White Paper, due for publication in early summer 2011. Water abstraction management will also be an important issue in the natural environment White Paper which is due for publication in spring 2011.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Finance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 533-35W, on the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: finance, how many payments were made under the heading of organisational support costs in each of the last five years; what the purpose was of each such payment; and if she will make a statement. [26764]

Richard Benyon: Further to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 535W, organisational support costs of the projects and amounts listed are not defined separately. To identify this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Rural Payments Agency: Complaints

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints her Department received in respect of the Rural Payments Agency in each year since 2008. [25463]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency has received the following number of complaints, as reported in the agency's annual reports and accounts for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Financial year	*Number*
2008-09	942
2009-10	1,116

Rural Payments Agency: Correspondence

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long on average the Rural Payments Agency takes to respond to an item of correspondence. [25357]

Mr Paice: Since January 2010 to date the Rural Payments Agency has responded to 33,395 correspondence items through paper and electronic methods, and has provided a response on average after eight working days of receipt.

The Agency aims to provide a full reply to correspondence within 15 working days of the day of receipt.

Rural Payments Agency: Finance

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding she has allocated to the Rural Payments Agency in 2010-11. [25365]

Mr Paice: RPA's total budget, as of November 2010, for 2010-11 is £190.972 million.

Rural Payments Agency: Sick Leave

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days staff of the Rural Payments Agency were absent due to sick leave in the latest period for which figures are available. [25359]

Mr Paice: The average working days lost (AWDL) due to sickness in the Rural Payments Agency between 1 October 2009 and 30 September 2010 was 10.3 days per person. This is broken down as 5.5 AWDL due to short-term sickness and 4.8 AWDL due to long-term absence reasons.

This represents a 1% reduction in the overall AWDL rate since the same period in the previous year.

Sharks: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on an international ban on shark finning. [26609]

Richard Benyon: As the Minister with responsibility for natural environment and fisheries, I am strongly opposed to shark finning wherever it takes place, and am thoroughly committed to banning this wasteful practice worldwide by ensuring that all sharks are landed with their fins attached.

The UK has already acted on this issue domestically. We no longer issue special fishing permits which means that all UK vessels must land sharks with fins attached to the carcass, wherever they fish.

We will use our strong domestic position to influence forthcoming EU negotiations on this issue. We want to see EU Regulations amended so that fin-on landings are mandatory for all European vessels. We will also push hard for this to be the case in international fisheries managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

Single Payment Scheme

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the land area eligible for payments under the single payment scheme in respect of which no claims under the scheme had been made on the latest date for which figures are available. [25874]

Mr Paice: In 2009, single payment scheme (SPS) entitlements were activated on approximately 93% of agricultural land eligible to be used in support of payment claims[1].

[1] Source:

DEFRA Agricultural Change and Environment Observatory Research Report No. 19. This analysis involves the statistical matching of two separate datasets (the June Survey and the SPS) and is therefore subject to a degree of statistical uncertainty.

Stray Dogs

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dog wardens were employed by each local authority in England in each of the last five years. [26518]

Mr Paice: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore to collate this would incur disproportionate cost.

Water Abstraction

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with water companies on river abstraction; whether progress has been made in encouraging such companies to rescind abstraction licences; and if she will make a statement. [26237]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has regular discussions with all the water companies that have abstraction licences which are, or could be, damaging the environment.

Water companies have varied or revoked 16 licences since 2008. We expect them to deliver 61 schemes relating to habitats directive sites by 2015 and to make voluntary licence changes.

The Government have directed the Environment Agency to change two licences held by United Utilities. These compulsory changes mean compensation will be paid to the company.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the adverse effects on river flows of abstraction; and if she will make a statement. [26240]

Richard Benyon: All abstraction licences are assessed through the Environment Agency's Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies.

Licences identified as potentially impacting the environment undergo further analysis in the Environment Agency's Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme.

The Environment Agency currently has 314 open schemes within this programme. Each scheme involves the investigation of one or more abstraction licences.

Restoration solutions can include licence changes as well as in-river modifications.

Securing water resources for the future will be a key theme in the upcoming water White Paper, due for publication in early summer 2011. Water abstraction management will also be an important issue in the natural environment White Paper which is due for publication in spring 2011.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Employment Agencies

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on his Department's guidance on regulations on the conduct of employment agencies; and if he will make a statement. [26831]

Mr Davey: Guidance on the conduct regulations was updated on the Businesslink and Directgov websites prior to changes to the regulations coming into force on 1 October this year. The Employment Agency Standards inspectorate is currently in the process of reviewing all of the guidance available with a view to publishing more detailed guidance in due course both for businesses and for workers.

The Secretary of State, however, has had no recent discussions on guidance on the conduct of employment agency regulations.

Export Credit Guarantees

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the budget of the Export Credits Guarantee Department for 2010-11 has been allocated to expenditure on default by debtors. [26177]

Mr Prisk: ECGD does not allocate a "budget" for defaults under its guarantees and insurance policies. However, ECGD does make forecasts of potential expenditure by way of claims payments to banks in respect of loans made by them to overseas borrowers to finance export contracts; claims arise under ECGD's guarantees to the lending banks where the borrower has defaulted on loan repayments. ECGD normally pays claims under defaulted guaranteed loans as amounts fall due to be repaid over the remaining life of the loan repayment period. For 2010-11, ECGD forecast £22 million of claims to be paid on loan repayment defaults by borrowers. Of this, £18.2 million is to cover first time defaults during 2010-11; none have materialised to date. The remainder relates to the payment of claims expected to be paid in 2010-11 in respect of loans already in default in previous financial years.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many banks are willing to lend in support of British exports in partnership with the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [26180]

Mr Prisk: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) does not keep records of banks who have expressed a willingness to lend in support of exports under a guarantee from ECGD. ECGD provides guarantees for loans made available by banks to finance export transactions under its Buyer Credit Facility (BCF) and Supplier Credit Financing Facility (SCF).

Under the BCF, ECGD does not keep a list of pre-approved banks but approves them on a case-by-case basis. In each case they must meet ECGD's minimum counterparty risk standard and, in the case of agent banks, demonstrate the capability to administer ECGD-backed export credit loans. In the last three years, 29 banks have acted as a lender and/or agent bank under the BCF. Under the SCF, ECGD pre-approves banks and, subject to them meeting ECGD's minimum counterparty risk standard, issues them with a Master Guarantee Agreement (MGA). Currently, eight banks hold SCF MGAs.

Green Investment Bank

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the likely effects of establishing a Green Investment Bank on small businesses. [25453]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will focus on the financing of green infrastructure projects and the deployment of late-stage green technologies.

The next phase of work, through to May, will see this Department doing detailed design and testing of the possible GIB products and assessing their likely impact on our growth, environmental and carbon objectives. All decisions regarding the institution will be subject to the Government's tests of effectiveness, affordability and transparency.

Higher Education: Admissions

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many children who had received free school meals entered *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Cambridge university in each year since 1980. [27697]

Mr Willetts: The figures in the table show the number of pupils aged 15 in English maintained schools who were in receipt of free school meals at the start of the school academic year and who progressed to Oxbridge by the age of 19.

Estimates of the number of FSM pupils aged 15 in English maintained schools who progress to Oxford and Cambridge university by age 19

	In HE by age 19		
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Oxford university	25	20	20
Cambridge university	20	25	20

Source:
Matched data from the National Pupil Database and the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record. All figures are estimates and have been rounded to the nearest five.

The figures for FSM pupils are based on those recorded as such on Pupil Level Census. As this is a snapshot of pupils in one year, this will exclude pupils who claimed free school meals in previous years. Also some parents may choose not to apply for FSM. Children from these families who progress to Oxbridge would not be included in the table.

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database and the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and are only available for three data points. These rounded estimates allow for a small margin of error that arises as result of the matching procedure deployed.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what account his Department has taken of the likely effects on resource flows in universities of the withdrawal of teaching funding from 2012 on the schedule of payments made by the Students Loan Company to universities in respect of fee income; and if he will make a statement. [27706]

Mr Willetts: The reforms we are introducing following Lord Browne's Review will put Higher Education funding on a fairer and more sustainable basis. We are determined to manage the process of transition carefully, ensuring smooth and manageable cash flows for institutions. The Department is working closely with the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Student Loans company to implement mechanisms to deliver this.

Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 643W, on innovation, which centres currently funded by regional development agencies will become technology innovation centres. [27628]

Mr Willetts: No decisions have yet been made, but the funding for technology and innovation centres is about making choices and backing a few opportunities to scale. This means developing some of the existing RDA funded centres which are excellent and establishing a limited number of new centres in the context of the Technology Strategy Board's overall programme of work.

The Technology Strategy Board will publish a strategy and implementation plan for Technology and Innovation Centres by April 2011, and have created a network of these centres by April 2012 as highlighted in the BIS business plan.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* strategic and *(b)* other powers he plans to enable local enterprise partnerships to exercise; and if he will make a statement. [27646]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth we envisage that local enterprise partnerships could take on a diverse range of roles. When partnerships have met our expectations regarding support from business, economic geography, local authority support, ambition and added value Government will enter into a discussion with them about delivering the economic vision for their area, in parallel with progress to establish appropriate boards and governance arrangements.

In addition, the Government are intending to provide, through the forthcoming localism Bill, a general power of competence for local authorities, giving them real freedom to act in the interests of their local communities.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the level of *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local authority funding for local enterprise partnerships in each year of the Spending Review period. [27647]

Mr Prisk: No central Government spending has been allocated specifically to fund the activities of local enterprise partnerships. As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth local enterprise partnerships will be expected to fund their own day-to-day running costs and will also want to consider how they can obtain the best value for public money by leveraging in private sector investment. Local enterprise partnerships and proposed partnerships may also wish to submit bids to the Regional Growth Fund or European funding. It is for local authorities to decide how much of their discretionary spending they allocate to local enterprise partnerships.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to put in place mechanisms to ensure representation from the Federation of Small Businesses and the Chambers of Commerce at the most senior level of management of local enterprise partnerships. [27648]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the Local Growth White Paper we will normally expect to see business representatives form half the local enterprise partnership board, with a prominent business leader in the chair. If partnerships are to be able to develop the right business environment for growth in their areas then we would expect the leadership of that partnership to have first hand knowledge and experience of working successfully in that environment. They will also want to draw from a breadth of experience, from small enterprises through to large businesses, those representing key sectors in their areas and any other key economic stakeholders such as universities or social enterprises. There are no specific mechanisms to ensure representation from particular representative bodies.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has plans to put in place mechanisms to limit spending on *(a)* administration and *(b)* communications and marketing by local enterprise partnerships. [27649]

Mr Prisk: There are no plans to put in place mechanisms to limit spending on either administration or communications and marketing by local enterprise partnerships. As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth local enterprise partnerships will be expected to fund their own day-to-day running costs.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how local enterprise partnerships will provide assistance in respect of small areas of deprivation in *(a)* Harlow and *(b)* other towns with similar demographic features. [27650]

Mr Prisk: It is for local enterprise partnerships to decide on their own priorities for fostering a strong environment for business growth.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the proposed local enterprise partnerships will consider the former staff of regional development agencies as potential employees. [27651]

Mr Prisk: It is for local enterprise partnerships to decide what activities they undertake and whom they employ.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what mechanisms he expects smaller sub-regional economic areas to *(a)* integrate in and *(b)* work with the larger local enterprise partnerships. [27652]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships see a move away from centrally imposed structures and their replacement with locally developed initiatives. It is for partnerships to decide how they develop and deliver their vision for a business environment that enables local growth. The Government are encouraging them to work with key economic stakeholders to help them deliver this vision. We would also expect the partnerships' governance arrangements to be transparent and ensure that they are locally accountable.

National Consumer Councils

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the Barnett consequentials for the devolved Administations as a result of the proposed reforms to the functions of the national consumer councils. [27155]

Mr Davey: The Government set out their proposals for the competition and consumer landscape in the context of the Public Bodies Bill in a statement issued on 14 October. That indicated that the Government are minded to shift almost all relevant central Government funding for consumer bodies towards the Citizens Advice services and Trading Standards.

My officials are discussing the implications with the devolved Administrations as well as with Citizens Advice (and Citizens Advice Scotland) and a number of consumer bodies. Our main concern is how best to maintain and enhance consumer protection in the UK.

A full consultation on the main proposals will take place in early 2011.

Assessment of the financial implications will be made in the light of these ongoing discussions and in the context of a forthcoming public consultation on the proposals in early 2011.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department plans to provide for the teaching of postgraduate taught courses in Higher Education Funding Council for England subject bands B and C in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [27705]

Mr Willetts: The Department will be announcing decisions on the funding available for teaching, including masters, in our Grant Letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) before Christmas. We will bring forward proposals on the longer term future for the funding for post graduate teaching, in the light of the Post Graduate Review, in the forthcoming higher education White Paper.

Refrigerators: Waste Disposal

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to reduce the number of refrigerated display cabinets disposed of in landfill sites. [27193]

Mr Prisk: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006 already minimise the amount of discarded electrical and electronic equipment going to landfill. The regulations place obligations on the producers and business end-users of a wide range of waste electrical equipment, including retail refrigerated display cabinets. These include the financing of the separate collection, subsequent treatment, re-use, recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal of such equipment when it becomes waste. Treatment and recycling facilities are approved and regulated by the environment agencies to ensure compliance with strict standards that minimise the environmental impacts of their operations and the maximisation of recycling rates.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to encourage the re-use and recycling of *(a)* refrigerated display cabinets and *(b)* other white electrical goods. [27194]

Mr Prisk: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006 already encourage the re-use and recycling of refrigerated display cabinets and other white electrical goods. The regulations place obligations on the producers and business end-users of a wide range of waste electrical equipment, including refrigerated display cabinets and white electrical goods. These include the financing of the separate collection, subsequent treatment, re-use, recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal of such equipment when it becomes waste.

Currently 96% of civic amenity sites across the UK collect large household appliances and 98% collect cooling equipment containing refrigerants from householders. The Code of Practice for collection of WEEE from these designated collection facilities encourages Producer Compliance Schemes (PCSs) to work with re-use organisations.

The WEEE regulations include specific provisions to encourage, where appropriate, the reuse of whole appliances including a requirement for PCSs, as part of the approval process, to set out how they propose to prioritise the reuse of whole appliances in their operational plans.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to determine the funding allocations for growth hubs. [27591]

Mr Prisk: Funding allocations for growth hubs will be determined as part of the process of prioritising activity in line with the spending review settlement. The Government will confirm funding once this process is complete.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department are working on the plans for the establishment of growth hubs. [27592]

Mr Prisk: There are currently around 2.5 full-time equivalents directly engaged in developing plans for the establishment of growth hubs. At need, a number of other officials are feeding into this process and contributing to the development of the wider business improvement policy.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27371]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office did not spend any money on entertainment related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Incapacity Benefit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeal cases relating to incapacity benefit have been heard *(a)* in Coventry, *(b)* in the West Midlands and *(c)* nationally in the last 2 years; and how many such appeals (i) with and (ii) without legal representation were upheld. [26829]

Mr Djanogly: The following tables show the number of incapacity benefit appeals heard by the First-Tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support nationally, and how many appeals were upheld where the appellant was and was not represented. Representatives do not need to be legally qualified.

Incapacity benefit appeals 2008-09

	Cases heard	*Decision upheld*	*Decision upheld (percentage)*	*Represented*	*Decision upheld with rep*	*Without rep*	*Decision upheld without rep*
Coventry	540	320	59.0	240	100	300	210
West midlands	7,060	4,470	63.0	2,410	1,100	4,640	3,380
National	63,400	31,200	49.0	27,400	9,000	36,000	22,200

Incapacity benefit appeals 2009-10

	Cases heard	*Decision upheld*	*Decision upheld (percentage)*	*Represented*	*Decision upheld with rep*	*Without rep*	*Decision upheld without rep*
Coventry	520	250	49.0	260	80	260	170
West midlands	4,370	2,450	56.0	1,680	640	2,700	1,810
National	47,200	23,000	49.0	20,700	6,900	27,000	16,300

Notes:

1. Decision upheld by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.
2. Figures with representative show appellants who had a representative; however, do not confirm that the representative was in attendance on the day of hearing.
3. West midlands statistics include Birmingham, Coventry, Harrow, Hereford, Kidderminster, Oxford, Reading, Shrewsbury, Stoke, Telford (now closed), Watford, Wolverhampton and Worcester.
4. Statistics have been rounded to the nearest 10 at local and area level and the nearest 100 at national level.

Civil Proceedings: Landlord and Tenant

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court cases arose from disputes between landlords and tenants in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [27334]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the number of claims issued in the county courts of England and Wales for landlord possession orders, demotion of tenancy, forfeiture of tenancy, and for a new tenancy agreement of business premises under Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. The following table shows these figures for each year between 2007 and 2009.

Statistical information relating to other types of disputes between landlords and tenants such as over repairs or tenancy deposit protection is not held centrally. This is because the administrative computer systems used in the county courts do not presently identify these specific application types. While the relevant cases will be logged on the system, they cannot be distinguished from other types of claims issued.

Claims issued by landlords against tenants[1] in the county courts of England and Wales, 2007-09

	Recovery of land[2, 3]	New tenancy agreement[4]	Demotion of tenancy[5]	Forfeiture of tenancy[6]
2007	147,057	1,958	131	178
2008	148,217	1,733	91	242
2009	136,592	1,551	84	235

[1] The breakdown by case type is only approximate as the claim may involve recovery of land in addition to demotion of tenancy or forfeiture of tenancy.
[2] Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.
[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.
[4] Claims for a new tenancy agreement as made under section 24 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 5.
[5] A demotion of the terms of the tenancy typically means losing the "Right to buy" or "Right to exchange" the property and the succession rights of the tenancy. These only apply to properties owned by social landlords.
[6] Forfeiture of a tenant's lease on a property
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Community Orders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to probation staff in respect of the preparation of court reports recommending sentencing options for cases where defendants are in receipt of incapacity benefit on the use of unpaid work as a disposal. [27124]

Mr Blunt: Probation staff are made aware of the Department for Work and Pensions guidance that unpaid work and incapacity benefit are not necessarily incompatible. In the assessment and induction process for unpaid work, probation staff gather information about the offender's health and their status in terms of receiving benefits. Offenders can then be allocated to work that properly takes account of these issues.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken between the issue of a community order with a condition of attendance on *(a)* a group general offender behaviour programme and *(b)* a sex offender programme and the commencement of the programme was in each probation trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [27348]

Mr Blunt: Waiting times for programmes are managed locally by each probation trust. This information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by obtaining information held on offender files or on local data systems, validating it, and then collating it in a common format in order to provide a response. Offenders waiting for a place on a programme are under the supervision of their offender manager who will monitor and actively manage the risk posed during the course of the supervision period.

Coroners

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to provide that deaths occurring in psychiatric care must be reported to the Coroner. [26760]

Mr Djanogly: We have no plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. In my statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, I set out our proposals for taking forward coronial reform. We are reviewing what provisions within the 2009 Act we may commence that are cost neutral and also intend to review Coroners Rules and guidance.

There is a power for the Lord Chancellor to make regulations requiring a registered medical practitioner to notify a coroner of a death in prescribed circumstances under the Act. The previous Government consulted on the categories of death to be reported to the coroner in 'Reform of the Coroner System—Next Stage—Preparing for Implementation', published in March 2010. The responses will inform our work in drafting these regulations.

Euthanasia

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 834W, on mercy killings, whether the Government plans to amend the law on offences of murder which may be classified as mercy killings. [26628]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: No. The Government believe that any change to the law in this emotive and contentious area is an issue of individual conscience and a matter for Parliament to decide rather than Government policy.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27368]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice did not spend any money on entertainment relating to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

HM Prison Acklington

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers were employed at HM Prison Acklington *(a)* on the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last five years. [26783]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of prison officers employed at HMP Acklington on *(a)* the latest published date and *(b)* in each of the last five years is contained in the following table.

Prison officers employed at HMP Acklington

Date	Prison officers
30 June 2010	197
31 March 2010	199
31 March 2009	208
31 March 2008	213
31 March 2007	191
31 March 2006	179
31 March 2005	18[illegible]

Land Registry

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the feasibility study he has commissioned on the Land Registry will involve full consultation with the main stakeholders. [27674]

Mr Djanogly: There will be an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the feasibility study. As part of the information gathering process, the project team leading the study invited members of the HM Land Registry Advisory Council to a meeting on 19 November, which includes a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties among its membership. The project team has also invited written representations from members, should they have anything further they wish to add. The team also met with representatives from the trade unions for similar discussions on 22 November.

Ministers will only make a decision on their preferred option once they have received the feasibility study. If our preference is for a materially different business strategy or ownership structure for Land Registry then a full public consultation process will be undertaken.

I expect to be in a position to make a decision on the preferred option in the new year.

Landlord Possession

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judgment orders to amend landlord possession claims were issued by county court judges in each of the first two quarters of 2010. [26953]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures centrally on the number of judgment orders made by county court judges in each of the first two quarters of 2010 to amend existing landlord possession orders.

While the Department's management information system contains the incidence of orders made in landlord possession claims, it is not possible to identify which orders are amending orders that have previously been made. This information could be obtained only through the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what level of *(a)* disclosure and *(b)* dissemination has been applied to information regarding Abdul Baset Al Megrahi held by the Criminal Cases Review Commission; and if he will make a statement. [26515]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: None. The Criminal Cases Review Commission does not hold any information or material relating to Abdul Baset Al Megrahi. As he was convicted by the Scottish courts, the Criminal Cases Review Commission does not have the power to review his conviction or sentence. The Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission can review the convictions or sentences of those convicted by the Scottish courts.

Offenders: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been referred into drug treatment through the criminal justice system in each of the last five years. [27617]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not record data in the form requested. However data are available for:

the number of clinical interventions for drug addiction in prisons delivered by health services;

initial assessments for adult prisoners by CARAT (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare) services;

prison-based accredited drug treatment programme commencements;

initial assessments by Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS) for 15 to 17-year-olds in custody;

drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs) and drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) issued as part of a community order or suspended sentence order; and

the number of individuals commencing treatment through the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP).

This information from the last five years is shown in the table.

Figures are not presently centrally collated for:

the number of offenders who are required to address their problems with drugs as a condition of their licence;

the number of Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs) with a drug treatment requirement.

Intervention[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Clinical Services (Detoxification/Maintenance)	53,770	51,520	58,810	64,770	60,070
CARATs—number of Substance Misuse Triage Assessments (SMTAs)	66,010	65,670	65,820	66,600	66,460
Young Persons Substance Misuse Services (YPSMS)—number of initial assessments	8,480	8,290	7,380	6,990	6,590
Accredited Drug Treatment Programmes/ Therapeutic Communities	10,740	11,150	11,320	10,880	10,210
Drug Treatment and Testing Order/Drug Rehabilitation Requirement	14,000	15,800	16,610	17,640	15,700
Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)[2]	24,560	39,900	46,190	57,950	58,340

[1] Individual prisoners may access more than one type of treatment intervention in any given period (e.g. some individuals may receive clinical detoxification, a CARAT assessment, access an accredited drug programme and have a DIP care plan).

[2] November 2007 onwards includes prison data.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and have been drawn from administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisons

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the operational staffing requirements for *(a)* operational managers, *(b)* principal officers, *(c)* senior officers, *(d)* prison officers, *(e)* operational support grades, *(f)* non-operational managers, *(g)* administration grades and *(h)* other staff for (i) each prison establishment, (ii) National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters and (ii) other NOMS offices will be by March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [26782]

Mr Blunt: Information on the operational staffing requirement for the end of March 2011 has been derived from returns collected from each establishment and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters directorate. The planned staffing requirements are subject to change as a result of more detailed plans being put in place following the spending review. The latest plans are contained in the table.

Projected staffing requirements within NOMS (full-time equivalent), 31 March 2011

Establishment	*Operational managers*[1]	*Principal officers*	*Senior officers*	*Prison officers*	*Operational support grades*	*Non-operational managers*[2]	*Administration grades*	*Other grades*	*Total*
Public sector									
Acklington	19	—	31	192	76	9	46	67	439
Ashwell	5	6	17	63	55	7	32	21	205
Askham Grange	4	—	3	19	12	3	13	5	59
Aylesbury	10	1	31	135	49	8	32	42	308
Bedford	7	6	22	128	36	9	39	21	268
Belmarsh	36	—	79	424	214	11	63	135	962
Birmingham	13	23	68	398	109	13	66	63	753
Blantyre House	3	—	5	24	15	5	7	7	65
Blundeston	12	—	20	119	50	4	26	56	288
Brinsford	13	—	34	177	61	7	37	52	381
Bristol	12	—	31	178	54	12	34	46	366
Brixton	12	1	31	173	45	10	42	22	335
Buckley Hall	9	—	14	86	29	8	24	32	201
Bullingdon	18	3	36	221	74	14	60	51	477
Bullwood Hall	5	1	13	59	21	5	21	21	145
Bure	11	1	26	124	54	8	42	44	310
Canterbury	9	2	19	81	38	6	19	15	187
Cardiff	16	—	36	225	46	7	40	71	440
Castington	11	1	33	134	54	7	39	44	321
Channings Wood	7	2	27	140	51	11	38	60	335
Chelmsford	15	—	31	194	64	9	36	64	413
Coldingley	14	—	24	104	45	11	29	47	273
Cookham Wood	10	1	23	113	37	8	29	28	248
Dartmoor	7	8	27	129	46	10	41	62	329
Deerbolt	13	2	25	151	56	6	43	47	343
Dorchester	4	1	18	79	19	6	22	24	171
Dover	4	2	18	107	62	5	14	44	256
Downview	11	—	21	97	33	6	28	23	218
Drake Hall	9	—	16	69	31	4	23	28	178
Durham	22	2	41	243	86	10	65	56	524
East Sutton Park	3	—	4	16	11	2	12	13	61
Eastwood Park	12	1	22	130	39	6	37	27	274
Edmunds Hill	9	—	17	92	40	4	27	30	219
Erlestoke	6	—	18	104	52	8	29	33	250
Everthorpe	12	—	34	118	44	8	38	28	281
Exeter	10	1	27	142	37	8	47	37	308
Featherstone	14	—	25	125	49	10	40	73	336
Feltham	24	4	68	334	120	38	61	90	739
Ford	8	1	11	49	34	8	29	27	167
Foston Hall	4	5	15	89	55	8	26	50	251
Frankland	29	3	71	526	133	43	69	113	987
Full Sutton	29	4	62	379	125	19	39	112	770
Garth	16	2	34	231	76	15	39	99	512
Gartree	10	—	37	190	47	20	56	77	437
Glen Parva	14	2	35	202	62	12	64	82	473
Gloucester	4	—	20	100	32	6	29	17	208
Grendon	12	2	21	112	48	20	37	42	294
Guys Marsh	10	—	22	108	55	7	31	55	287
Haslar	4	—	9	40	12	3	8	26	102
Haverigg	13	1	22	117	59	11	44	62	329

Projected staffing requirements within NOMS (full-time equivalent), 31 March 2011

Establishment	*Operational managers*[1]	*Principal officers*	*Senior officers*	*Prison officers*	*Operational support grades*	*Non-operational managers*[2]	*Administration grades*	*Other grades*	*Total*
Hewell	26	—	57	284	122	14	77	75	655
High Down	15	—	42	215	99	11	56	49	487
Highpoint	17	—	28	170	102	12	51	69	449
Hindley	13	1	34	229	54	11	34	52	427
Hollesley Bay	6	1	7	45	30	5	23	31	148
Holloway	21	1	37	199	78	19	50	106	511
Holme House	23	3	43	315	64	13	71	61	592
Hull	19	—	46	244	84	13	49	37	491
Huntercombe	16	1	19	84	35	7	31	52	244
Isis	14	—	24	147	46	9	59	10	309
Isle of Wight	21	—	70	357	142	23	102	163	877
Kennet	10	2	20	105	53	8	31	40	269
Kingston	8	—	11	56	16	5	13	27	137
Kirkham	7	1	13	57	33	13	40	48	212
Kirklevington Grange	6	—	7	42	27	3	22	23	130
Lancaster	9	—	12	64	26	7	22	19	159
Lancaster Farms	9	8	35	182	51	6	38	39	367
Latchmere House	3	1	6	29	18	3	13	9	82
Leeds	17	4	60	310	112	11	55	38	607
Leicester	6	—	19	117	31	7	29	7	216
Lewes	15	3	30	184	68	7	40	24	369
Leyhill	7	7	16	54	29	10	40	51	213
Lincoln	15	1	28	158	59	10	45	18	334
Lindholme	20	—	37	187	109	11	63	58	484
Littlehey	17	1	48	239	101	11	56	135	608
Liverpool	26	—	47	281	103	12	54	65	587
Long Lartin	20	5	55	338	131	22	49	84	703
Low Newton	9	—	19	118	47	8	34	43	278
Maidstone	9	2	20	113	57	12	30	35	277
Manchester	14	22	77	418	149	16	61	125	880
Moorland	22	2	42	237	100	10	48	36	497
Morton Hall	7	—	18	89	38	4	21	20	197
New Hall	17	—	30	169	69	10	43	37	374
North Sea Camp	7	1	9	44	23	5	24	14	127
Northallerton	5	—	11	53	25	5	27	13	139
Norwich	15	3	23	173	67	8	39	55	382
Nottingham	17	1	45	266	117	9	73	42	570
Onley	9	6	34	162	61	10	66	45	392
Pentonville	22	6	52	321	89	11	49	51	600
Portland	8	—	29	152	55	11	37	56	348
Preston	18	3	41	211	69	6	51	34	431
Ranby	10	—	30	201	87	12	14	77	431
Reading	8	1	17	88	33	5	22	21	194
Risley	16	3	36	242	70	14	42	64	486
Rochester	15	4	33	198	73	10	58	65	455
Send	9	1	20	72	33	7	27	25	192
Sheppey Cluster	40	8	115	612	206	21	162	187	1350
Shepton Mallet	7	—	9	49	26	7	18	24	139
Shrewsbury	8	1	18	82	32	9	27	31	207
Stafford	17	3	30	131	74	8	42	70	374
Stocken	11	5	29	166	58	9	51	45	374
Stoke Heath	18	—	38	205	68	11	47	68	455
Styal	18	3	17	150	47	8	35	33	310
Sudbury	5	3	12	50	31	13	33	37	183
Swansea	12	—	21	114	26	4	30	33	239
Swinfen Hall	16	—	30	165	69	16	36	61	392
The Mount	8	7	29	131	54	12	45	55	341
The Verne	9	—	16	79	61	11	33	56	264
Thorn Cross	5	3	17	74	26	8	20	28	181
Usk/Prescoed	10	—	13	67	31	5	21	38	185
Wakefield	34	3	60	350	127	20	52	91	736
Wandsworth	29	4	66	357	111	18	74	72	731

Projected staffing requirements within NOMS (full-time equivalent), 31 March 2011

Establishment	*Operational managers*[1]	*Principal officers*	*Senior officers*	*Prison officers*	*Operational support grades*	*Non-operational managers*[2]	*Administration grades*	*Other grades*	*Total*
Warren Hill	12	—	19	119	31	6	35	24	246
Wayland	10	3	30	181	62	11	39	79	414
Wealstun	16	—	35	166	76	12	52	80	436
Wellingborough	12	—	25	125	54	10	44	17	286
Werrington	9	1	15	74	30	9	28	22	187
Wetherby	15	—	38	203	70	18	35	56	434
Whatton	10	—	25	160	79	26	53	68	420
Whitemoor	15	1	55	358	148	22	78	103	779
Winchester	8	4	28	160	47	9	42	42	339
Woodhill	21	—	72	389	135	14	76	59	766
Wormwood Scrubs	20	10	45	272	85	16	63	76	586
Wymott	18	4	31	224	85	15	48	106	531
Public sector total	1,613	241	3,760	20,809	7,781	1,291	5,095	6,284	46,873
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Private sector	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Altcourse	54	—	—	347	25	19	54	120	619
Ashfield[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronzefield	26	—	29	156	32	2	34	108	386
Doncaster[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dovegate[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forest Bank	30	—	39	273	36	3	45	125	551
Lowdham Grange[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	15	43		298	32	31	72	168	659
Peterborough	26	—	38	275	41	3	41	111	535
Rye Hill	14	22	—	146	18	8	30	32	270
Wolds	19	—	—	102	13	10	20	46	210
Private sector total[5]	184	65	106	1,997	197	76	296	710	3,230
NOMS HQ[3]	237	74	107	54	28	1,257	752	570	3,080
Total	2,034	380	3,973	22,460	8,005	2,624	6,143	7,564	53,183

[1] Including developing prison service managers. [2] Also includes senior civil servants. [3] Includes national headquarters and Director of Offender Managers offices and regional service teams. [4] Staffing plans for March 2011 are not held by the contractor, although no changes to staffing levels are anticipated. [5] Grades in private sector prisons differ from public sector prisons.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appointments there have been to each grade in the Prison Service since March 2010; and if he will make a statement. [26784]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of appointments made to each grade in the public and private sector Prison Service and NOMS HQ from 1 March 2010 to 30 June 2010 (latest published date) is shown in the following tables.

Appointments[1] made to each grade in the public sector Prison Service and NOMS HQ between 01 March 2010 and 30 June 2010

Grade name	*Public sector prisons*	*NOMS HQ*	*Total*
Administrative Assistant	35	5	40
Administrative Officer	62	33	95
Executive Officer	1	9	10
Admin Other	6	0	6
Admin Senior Civil Servant	0	1	1
Chaplaincy	7	0	7
Healthcare Nursing Grades	9	0	9
Healthcare Other	2	0	2
Industrial	55	14	69
Non Industrial	18	1	19
Non Operational Managers	0	19	19
Non Operational Senior Managers	0	6	6
Operational Support Grade	260	7	267
Psychology	46	2	48
Unified Managers	0	1	1
Unified Principal Officer	0	0	0
Unified Prison Officer	179	0	179
Unified Senior Managers	0	5	5
Unified Senior Officer	0	0	0
No grade recorded	3	1	4
Total	683	104	787

[1] Appointments figures are based on records of persons joining the service.

Appointments made to each grade in the contracted prison estate between 1 March 2010 and 30 June 2010

Grade	*Total*
OSG	28
Prison Custody Officer	57
Admin	18
Healthcare	15
Non Operational Manager	3
Operational Manager	3
Psychology	2
Industrial	0
Non-Industrial	4
Education	1
Other	37
Total	137

Prisons: Training

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unfilled places there were on each training course for new prison officer grades since their introduction; and if he will make a statement. [26785]

Mr Blunt: Since 1 October 2009, when Prison Officer 2 recruitment was introduced, there have been 96 unfilled training places. This figure includes those who were offered a training place but, subsequently, decided not to take up their offer of employment. 50 Prison Officer Entry Level Training (POELT) courses have delivered 901 training places against 997 scheduled places.

Squatting

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has set for bringing forward his proposals to reduce the incidence of squatting. [27237]

Mr Blunt: As I said in my previous answer to the hon. Member we are reviewing the options for strengthening the law in relation to squatting and the way in which it is enforced. We hope to conclude this work early next year.

Tribunals: Housing

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the introduction of specialist housing tribunals in cases of the repossession of homes by landlords. [26954]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently no plans to transfer specific housing matters from the county courts to tribunals.

Young Offenders

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* children and young people under the age of 18 years and *(b)* looked-after children and young people under the age of 18 years were released from custody in each local authority area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [26922]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of custodial episodes ended for children and young people under the age of 18 years by the youth offending team they were attached to in each of the last five years where data are available.

The majority of youth offending teams are coterminous with local authorities in England and Wales; however there are some exceptions where a single YOT covers two or more local authorities. During 2008-09, there were 157 YOTs; 139 in England and 18 in Wales.

Accurate data on the number of looked-after children are not collected centrally by the Youth Justice Board.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Barking and Dagenham	76	82	94	82	64
Barnet	67	38	59	71	60
Barnsley	63	46	43	48	41
Bath and North East Somerset	28	26	20	27	19
Bedfordshire	63	73	56	64	60
Bexley	21	35	47	33	24
Birmingham	567	498	497	405	375
Blackburn with Darwen	48	34	33	32	41
Blackpool	50	33	45	69	61
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	44	39	62	32	39
Bolton	80	91	74	85	87
Bournemouth and Poole	48	61	33	18	17
Bracknell Forest	7	11	14	19	25
Bradford	104	125	135	142	125
Brent	69	92	64	95	126
Bridgend	33	31	26	34	27
Brighton and Hove	29	23	36	59	47
Bristol	81	75	101	134	124
Bromley	23	28	46	43	40
Buckinghamshire	33	18	31	15	26
Bury	27	30	40	39	39
Calderdale	57	54	53	53	60
Cambridgeshire	38	51	45	40	55
Camden	28	43	49	54	46
Cardiff	156	127	116	123	73
Carmarthenshire	25	26	38	37	31
Ceredigion	—	2	19	17	4
Cheshire	97	113	111	140	90
Conwy and Denbighshire	34	49	39	48	41
Cornwall	14	43	45	34	37
Coventry	116	115	117	74	78
Croydon	77	89	110	102	116
Cumbria	100	85	101	121	108
Darlington	30	26	24	31	26
Derby	80	94	89	84	120
Derbyshire	94	112	116	106	98
Devon	43	54	51	43	37
Doncaster	73	86	72	74	59
Dorset	17	20	12	15	8
Dudley	83	63	43	50	55
Durham	69	76	62	71	83
Ealing	39	49	89	115	112
East Riding of Yorkshire	20	19	28	37	29
East Sussex	41	64	61	46	42
Enfield	49	76	111	82	75
Essex	171	169	195	174	150
Flintshire	51	55	63	27	23
Gateshead	35	32	41	41	45
Gloucestershire	64	92	91	53	62
Greenwich	62	79	67	56	99
Gwynedd Mon	44	41	35	30	26
Hackney	89	82	113	121	119
Halton and Warrington	35	55	55	58	63
Hammersmith and Fulham	39	59	55	70	47
Haringey	104	82	87	104	85
Harrow	15	31	40	31	19
Hartlepool	11	10	28	30	26
Havering	13	19	43	45	41
Hertfordshire	112	124	115	92	93
Hillingdon	57	44	61	46	65
Hounslow	53	48	48	51	57
Islington	55	61	73	96	86
Kensington and Chelsea	29	20	30	39	32
Kent	162	158	192	196	181
Kingston-upon-Hull	126	138	145	138	118

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Kingston-upon-Thames	7	12	15	26	20
Kirklees	119	120	138	105	81
Knowsley	49	35	39	32	39
Lambeth	103	137	145	144	152
Lancashire	188	227	240	236	204
Leeds	351	287	321	290	267
Leicester City	120	123	100	101	100
Leicestershire	73	53	73	46	52
Lewisham	87	100	101	82	107
Lincolnshire	75	59	60	75	48
Liverpool	184	204	202	207	212
Luton	53	47	45	49	36
Manchester	350	376	385	362	330
Medway	24	34	29	53	60
Merthyr Tydfil	26	47	30	23	20
Merton	32	39	42	35	48
Milton Keynes	23	35	29	43	36
Miscellaneous	21	11	9	6	6
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	22	16	18	23	9
Neath Port Talbot	19	30	31	30	20
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	75	80	66	62	66
Newham	137	116	133	124	126
Newport	70	75	65	32	35
Norfolk	65	63	52	68	77
North East Lincolnshire	64	64	55	45	58
North Lincolnshire	47	58	52	48	62
North Somerset	13	14	11	10	23
North Tyneside	67	54	54	60	43
North Yorkshire	30	50	58	62	70
Northamptonshire	84	69	86	120	95
Northumberland	45	32	55	59	37
Nottingham	201	218	249	202	185
Nottinghamshire	99	139	108	102	94
Oldham	58	53	108	100	79
Oxfordshire	51	78	73	94	56
Pembrokeshire	1	5	10	8	14
Peterborough	66	67	64	78	70
Plymouth	31	37	42	67	44
Powys	10	13	9	9	4
Reading	34	39	51	40	42
Redbridge	44	67	91	75	59
Rhondda Cynon Taff	65	58	40	33	46
Richmond-upon-Thames	20	21	10	10	11
Rochdale	81	83	61	75	85
Rotherham	50	52	45	39	57
Salford	145	130	108	115	94
Sandwell	150	135	118	87	74
Sefton	19	43	62	52	53
Sheffield	119	111	151	132	143
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	32	38	41	32	58
Slough	23	17	21	32	24
Solihull	21	23	32	24	25
Somerset	35	40	43	38	35
South Gloucestershire	10	17	12	13	19
South Tees	70	72	96	69	93
South Tyneside	67	25	39	31	27
Southend-on-Sea	25	28	55	37	38
Southwark	107	110	110	102	158
St Helens	23	30	25	20	38
Staffordshire	78	96	80	63	79
Stockport	61	58	69	63	43
Stockton-on-Tees	21	18	26	22	26
Stoke-on-Trent	65	79	92	63	60
Suffolk	99	99	102	104	113
Sunderland	77	70	56	68	44
Surrey	60	71	71	64	42
Sutton	32	49	29	15	23
Swansea	63	56	64	33	39
Swindon	28	26	27	20	20
Tameside	62	75	101	70	62
Thurrock	46	28	44	37	32
Torbay	9	9	17	26	14
Tower Hamlets and City of London	37	69	83	69	73
Trafford	88	113	94	78	80
Vale of Glamorgan	14	16	12	18	23
Wakefield	73	68	52	63	51
Walsall	78	11	74	53	64
Waltham Forest	77	65	66	72	83
Wandsworth	59	73	83	114	93
Warwickshire	34	49	66	54	43
Wessex	372	354	413	451	420
West Berkshire	7	10	20	19	16
West Sussex	83	125	94	103	77
Westminster	40	30	38	32	43
Wigan	67	60	59	63	70
Wiltshire	29	30	20	19	23
Windsor and Maidenhead	12	8	6	6	5
Wirral	73	61	61	79	45
Wokingham	—	—	2	7	18
Wolverhampton	83	67	56	48	62
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	120	128	89	85	84
Wrexham	—	—	15	51	46
York	42	58	45	41	45
Total	10,637	11,035	11,573	11,188	10,712

Notes:

1. Please note Flintshire and Wrexham YOT split into two YOTs in 2001, though have been recorded as the combined YOT up to 2007. This problem has been corrected for 2008.
2. Mid Wales YOT split into two YOTs in 2005 to become Powys YOT and Ceredigion YOT in 2005, though were recorded as the combined YOT in 2006. This problem has been corrected from 2007.
3. Reading and Wokingham YOT split into separate YOTs in 2007. Though data appears in 2007, this is due to the fact that the split did not happen until April 2007.
4. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those under the age of 18 years serving a Detention and Training Order in each *(a)* young offender institution and *(b)* secure training centre in England and Wales were registered as of no fixed abode on release from custody in each of the last five years. [26923]

Mr Blunt: The YJB does not hold accurate data on the number of young people registered as of no fixed abode on release from custody.

Local authorities have statutory responsibilities to accommodate young people in need of suitable accommodation through the Children Act 1989, the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and housing legislation.

EDUCATION

Adoption

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of *(a)* legislation and *(b)* guidelines on contested adoption cases. [26121]

Tim Loughton: The law and the statutory guidance on adoption make clear that children cannot be adopted without their parents' consent unless the court is satisfied that the welfare of the child requires their consent to be dispensed with. We have no plans to change the position in this regard.

Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children became subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order in England in each year from 1989 to 2007. [25206]

Tim Loughton: The number of children who became subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order for years ending 31 March 1993 to 2007 is shown in the following table. Information for the year ending 31 March 1992 is affected by the introduction of the Children Act on 14 October 1991 when a new system of legal statuses was introduced, so it is not possible to extract a full year's data. Information prior to 1992 is not available.

Children who became subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order: Years ending 31 March 1993 to 2007: Coverage: England

	Total
1993[1]	4,000
1994[1]	5,100
1995[1]	5,600
1996[1]	5,800
1997[1]	6,100
1998[2]	7,100
1999[2]	7,100
2000[2]	7,700
2001[2]	7,000
2002[2]	7,400
2003[2]	8,100
2004[1]	7,600
2005[1]	7,800
2006[1]	7,700
2007[1]	7,700

[1] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.

[2] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

Notes:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000, and to the nearest 10, otherwise.
2. The figures exclude children who became looked after under a child assessment order, so may differ from the figures for children who were taken into care.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Only the first occasion on which a child became subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order, in the year has been counted.

Source:

SSDA 903

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or placed for adoption excluding children looked after under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 left care through adoption in England in each year from 1996 to 2010. [25208]

Tim Loughton: The number of children who were subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or placed for adoption excluding children looked after under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, who left care through adoption in England in each year ending 31 March 1996 to 2010 is shown in the following table.

Children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March who were subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or who were placed for adoption[1, 2, 3]—years ending 31 March 1996 to 2010

	Number of children
1996[4]	1,400
1997[4]	1,400
1998[5]	1,700
1999[5]	1,500
2000[5]	2,100
2001[5]	2,600
2002[5]	3,100
2003[5]	3,300
2004[4]	3,400
2005[4]	3,400
2006[4]	3,400
2007[4]	3,100
2008[4]	2,900
2009[4]	3,100
2010[4]	3,000

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10, otherwise.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 and also under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[4] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.

[5] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

Source:

SSDA903

Departmental Fines

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many transport-related fines his Department has settled on behalf of its staff in each year since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [13279]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's (DFE) travel and subsistence policy clearly states that it is entirely the responsibility of employees to pay any transport-related fines they occur on official business.

There is no evidence held centrally to indicate that the Department has settled any transport-related fines on behalf of its staff since 2005. To provide absolute confirmation of this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Services: Post Office

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the monetary value was of contracts between his Department and its predecessors and *(a)* Post Office Ltd and *(b)* Royal Mail in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) each year since 2004-05. [24918]

Tim Loughton: The Department and its predecessors has no formal contracts with Post Office Ltd or Royal Mail but uses Royal Mail services through local arrangements between Royal Mail distribution depots and our regional headquarter offices for the despatch of letters and parcels.

There is no information available for the years 1997-98 and 2004-05 but since 2005-06 the spend on Royal Mail letter and parcel services has been:

	£
2005-06	312,250.00
2006-07	275,739.00
2007-08	180,864.00
2008-09	177,705.00
2009-10	110,257.00

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24379]

Tim Loughton: In the period 12 May 2010 to 12 November 2010 the Department for Education has revoked a number of regulatory statutory instruments or significant parts of statutory instruments. These are detailed in the following table. However, as indicated by the third column of the table, in some cases the content of the revoked statutory instrument has been largely replaced.

Regulations revoked	*Revoking instrument*	*Comments*
The Children (Leaving Care) (England) Regulations 2001	The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced. Coming into force 1 April 2011
The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended)	The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced
The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) Regulations 1989	The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked so far as they applied to maintained schools in England, but replaced. Coming into force 1 January 2011
The National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Regulations 2001	The Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced
The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Appropriate Officer and Schedule 7 Prescribed Persons) Regulations 2010	The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Appropriate Officer and Schedule 7 Prescribed Persons) (Revocation) Regulations 2010	—
The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Supervisory Authorities and Devolution Alignment) Order 2010	The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Supervisory Authorities and Devolution Alignment) Order 2010	The devolution alignment aspect of the order was revoked
The Education (School Teachers' Pay and Conditions) Order 2009	The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Order 2010	Revoked but replaced
The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2010	—
The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	The School Information (England) (Amendment) (Revocation) Regulations 2010	—
The School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2004	The School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2010	Revoked but replaced
The Children's Trust Board (Children and Young People's Plan) (England) Regulations 2010	The Children's Trust Board (Children and Young People's Plan) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2010	—

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what new regulations sponsored by his Department have been introduced through *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instrument in the last six months. [24494]

Tim Loughton: In the period 12 May 2010 to 12 November 2010, one new Act of Parliament (the Academies Act 2010) received Royal Assent. The Department for Education commenced provisions of other Acts of Parliament relating to education, children and families. Nine regulation-making powers contained in primary legislation were commenced during that period. The Department made 11 statutory instruments which contain substantive regulations. Eight of these came into force by 12 November, as follows:

The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010

The Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010

The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Order 2010

The Equality Act (Designation of Institutions with a Religious Ethos) Order 2010

The Academy Conversions (Transfer of School Surpluses) Regulations 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (General Qualifications Bodies) (Appropriate Regulator and Relevant Qualifications) Regulations 2010

The School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2010

The Special Restrictions on Adoptions from Abroad (Haiti) Order 2010.

A further three will come into force after 12 November, as follows:

The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010

The Education (Prescribed Public Examinations) (England) Regulations 2010

The Education (Publication of Proposals) (Sixth Form College Corporations) (England) Regulations 2010.

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many unpaid, expenses-only internships there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies which fall within his Department's area of responsibility in the last 12 months. [13810]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not fund any unpaid, expenses-only internships but does make unpaid summer internship placements available to graduates under the Teach First Programme.

The Department does support the Cabinet Office's Summer Internship Programme which pays students participating over a six week period.

Information on the number of unpaid, expenses-only internships for the Department's public bodies is a matter for them. The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the effectiveness of conditional cost transfer schemes in increasing education staying-on rates in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [26564]

Tim Loughton: The requested information is not collected. To supply additional information would incur disproportionate costs.

Education: Sussex

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of academic standards in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in Mid Sussex constituency. [26768]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The Department has not conducted a specific assessment of academic standards in Mid Sussex constituency. However, Ofsted is expected to publish its Annual Children's Services Assessment of West Sussex, the local authority responsible for schools in Mid Sussex, in December. This will take account of the performance of schools in the constituency area.

In terms of school performance in Mid Sussex, the latest published performance data show:

Percentage of 11-year-olds in primary schools achieving level 4 or above in their 2009 key stage 2 results

Subject	*Mid Sussex*	*National average*
English	86	80
Maths	84	79
Science	92	88
Percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more A*-C GCSE or equivalent passes in 2009	71.9	70
Percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more A*-C GCSE or equivalent passes, including English and maths in 2009	59.4	50.9

Sex and Relationships Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the forthcoming curriculum review will consider sex and relationships education. [26958]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* Sex and relationships education is not currently part of the national curriculum and will not be within scope of the national curriculum review. However, we intend to conduct an internal review to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education teaching, giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgement about how best to deliver PSHE education, including sex and relationships education.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in each of the last 10 years. [23398]

Tim Loughton: The Department's financial records only go back as far as 2002 but I can tell the hon. Gentleman that based on these records they show that from April 2002 to October 2010 the Department spent £418,342 on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Pupils: Bullying

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the causes of bullying in schools; when his Department last undertook a review of the evidence relating to the causes of bullying in school drawing on (a) UK and (b) international research; and if he will make a statement. [24885]

Mr Gibb: In May 2010, Partners Andrews Aldridge completed an overview for the Department on the issue of bullying. This examined national and international evidence to determine the causes of bullying, and recommended measures to reduce and respond to bullying both in schools and in our communities. We plan to publish the key findings of the review early in the new year.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has offered assistance to The Big March campaign; and if he will make a statement. [24886]

Tim Loughton: Tackling bullying is a top priority for the Government and we are supportive of any initiative that helps reduce the suffering of children and young people at the hands of bullies. The Deputy Prime Minister met the organisers following the March and promised to consider carefully the campaigners' calls for a review of bullying guidance across Government. In addition, Ministers in the Department have agreed to meet the organisers to discuss the items raised during the campaign.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the organisers of The Big March campaign; what issues were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [24887]

Tim Loughton: Beatbullying, the organisers of the Big March, attended a ministerial policy seminar on anti-bullying hosted by the Department on 9 November 2010. During this meeting we asked for their views and ideas on how existing anti-bullying policy can be strengthened. The Department will continue to consult with Beatbullying and all our partners on any changes to future Government anti-bullying policy.

Students: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the Government plans to stipulate *(a)* a minimum and *(b)* a maximum award to students from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund in the 2011-12 academic year. [26974]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* Decisions regarding the new discretionary fund will be made locally, enabling schools, colleges and training providers to target support at those young people in greatest need. Current discretionary funds have no specified minimum or maximum payment.

In finalising the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, the Department will consult with schools, colleges and training organisations, including on what guidance is required to administer the fund effectively.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which training providers receive Government funding for the Discretionary Learner Support Fund; and how much was received by each such provider in the latest period for which figures are available. [27468]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Teachers: Qualifications

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of newly-qualified teachers who did not find permanent employment in each of the last five years; what steps he plans to take to reduce unemployment amongst newly-qualified teachers; what estimate he has made of the effects of the implementation of the proposals in the comprehensive spending review on unemployment amongst newly-qualified teachers in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [23037]

Tim Loughton: The number and percentage of newly qualified teachers (NQTs) by their employment status is given in the table. The scope of these figures is NQTs who have gained qualified teacher status (QTS) via mainstream initial teacher training courses, and the table reports their employment status six months after gaining QTS.

Newly qualified teachers: Employment status six months after gaining QTS Years: 2004/05 to 2008/09 England

		Number of NQTs				
	Teachers gaining QTS—Newly qualified teachers (NQT's)	In a teaching post	Seeking a teaching post	Not seeking a teaching post	Unclassified	Total
2004/05	27,150	21,960	1,130	1,010	3,050	27,150
2005/06	27,010	21,960	1,450	1,100	2,510	27,010
2006/07	26,980	22,100	1,300	1,130	2,450	26,980
2007/08	26,470	21,760	1,220	1,090	2,390	26,470
2008/09	26,650	21,550	1,750	1,160	2,190	26,650

Distribution of NQTs (%)

	In a teaching post	Seeking a teaching post	Not seeking a teaching post	Unclassified	Total	Proportion of NQTs in a teaching post who sought/ are seeking a post (%)
2004/05	80.9	4.2	3.7	11.2	100.0	95.1
2005/06	81.3	5.4	4.1	9.3	100.0	93.8
2006/07	81.9	4.8	4.2	9.1	100.0	94.5
2007/08	82.2	4.6	4.1	9.0	100.0	94.7
2008/09	80.9	6.6	4.4	8.2	100.0	92.5

Notes:

1. Excludes teachers gaining QTS via employment based routes to ITT.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles

This analysis indicates that the proportion of NQTs in a teaching post has remained fairly stable over the last five years.

Centrally available information does not currently provide details relating to the type of contract held by teachers (such as permanent, fixed or temporary). The new School Workforce Census will collect information on the type of contract. First findings from this data collection are expected in spring 2011.

It is our intention that the supply of qualified teachers matches as closely as possible the needs of schools, and the number of places to initial teacher training courses is calculated on this basis. Our estimates for funding of future teacher trainees for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) took into account the latest available data on the supply of teachers.

Overall, funding for schools, including funding for the new pupil premium, will rise in real terms over the CSR period. We are providing maximum flexibility to schools in relation to how they spend the budgets allocated to them. It is for governors and headteachers to decide how to use their budgets to ensure the best outcomes for their pupils.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Livestock: Slaughterhouses

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much meat of each type procured by the Department of Facilities was slaughtered using *(a)* halal, *(b)* non-halal and *(c)* unknown methods in the latest period in which figures are available. [27627]

John Thurso: In the year to March 2010, the House of Commons Catering Service knowingly purchased halal meat to the value of approximately £1,500, or 0.25% of all fresh meat purchases. This was purchased expressly to cater for specific clients' requirements.

The remaining meat purchased by the Department, at a value of approximately £590,000, was ordered and received as non-halal meat, but as stated in the reply given by the hon. Member for Middlesbrough (Sir Stuart Bell) to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr Knight), on 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 761W, this included an unquantified amount of poultry slaughtered using halal methods. Suppliers have confirmed that no other type of meat supplied to the House of Commons Catering Service has been slaughtered in accordance with halal or other special requirements unless expressly ordered as such.

Parliamentary Questions: Costs

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what recent estimate has been made of the average cost to the House of a tabled parliamentary question for *(a)* oral and *(b)* written answer; what assessment the Commission has made of the effects on its costs of recent trends in the number of parliamentary questions tabled; and if he will make a statement. [25930]

John Thurso: The House Service estimates that the average cost to the service of a printed question and the accompanying answer in the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010 was £80. The average cost of a printed question prior to the answer was £44; the additional average cost associated with the reporting of an answer was £36. These calculations are based on the figures given in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of questions printed*	*Total costs prior to answer (£)*	*Total costs of reporting answers (£)*
2007-08	68,379	2,844,170	2,341,603
2008-09	69,510	2,898,112	2,321,740
2009-10	55,736	2,760,102	2,378,795

These costs include printing costs and direct staff and staff-related costs. The estimated total costs include the estimated staff costs associated with advice to hon. Members and editorial work on questions not printed, including questions tabled for oral answer and entered into the shuffle (a process dependent upon automated random number generation to determine which questions appear on the Order Paper and in what order), but not printed. To these costs should be added the costs of electronic publishing and indexing; the former cannot readily be separately identified; the latter are estimated to be in the region of £65,000 annually. It is not possible to calculate separate averages for oral and written questions.

It is estimated that 65% of the cost of questions prior to answer and 73% of the cost of reporting answers is attributable to printing—an average cost per question of £28 and per answer of £26. Any change in the number of written questions tabled directly affects such costs. The remaining costs are broadly fixed and will not fluctuate according to the number of questions, although staffing levels and some staff-related costs, such as additional hours payments and late night transport costs, may alter if there is a significant change in the volume of questions.

The list of possible savings produced by the Management Board contains a suggestion that, from the start of 2011-12, the Questions Book should no longer be printed, leading to an estimated annual saving of £865,000 or around £13 per question.

Schools: Transport

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons Commission spent under its transport subsidy scheme in respect of schools in each constituency in each of the last three financial years. [26605]

John Thurso: The transport subsidy scheme was introduced in 2009 in response to a recommendation by the Administration Committee. The objective was to encourage a greater proportion of schools to visit Parliament through the education visits programme from outside Greater London and the South East. The UK was split into three geographic bands, A-C. Band A does not attract a subsidy, in band B schools can claim 50% of costs, up to a maximum of £650, and in band C 75% of costs, up to a maximum of £1,250. The full details of the scheme, including a list of which band each constituency falls into, can be found on the Education Service website.

The following table provides the amount the House of Commons spent in individual constituencies where schools claimed under the transport subsidy scheme in the financial year 2009-10 (the first year of the scheme) and the current financial year up to July 2010. The cost listed is 70% of the overall subsidy paid as the cost of the scheme is shared with the House of Lords.

For the 2009-10 financial year data the constituency boundaries are before the 2010 changes. The financial year 2010-11 data incorporate the 2010 boundary changes.

Total of claims made in the financial year 2010-11 by constituency (based on the post-2010 boundaries)

	HOC (£)
Aberavon	262.50
Aberconwy	432.65
Altrincham and Sale West	260.23
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	494.10
Barnsley East	245.00
Birmingham, Edgbaston	173.25
Birmingham, Hall Green	136.50
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	392.00
Birmingham, Ladywood	455.00
Birmingham, Northfield	148.75
Birmingham, Selly Oak	262.50
Blackburn	251.41
Blackpool South	243.05
Bosworth	123.33
Bradford East	323.96
Bradford South	170.35
Brecon and Radnorshire	402.50
Bristol North West	157.50
Bristol South	150.50
Burnley	455.00
Cardiff South and Penarth	378.00
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	512.40
Charnwood	343.00
Coventry South	350.00
Derbyshire Dales	682.50
Dewsbury	262.50
Dudley North	218.75
Glasgow North	455.00
Gordon	689.38
Grantham and Stamford	157.50
Harborough	196.00
Isle of Wight	875.00
Kingston upon Hull East	455.00
Strangford	875.00
Sunderland Central	455.00
Sutton Coldfield	437.50
Taunton Deane	159.01
Thirsk and Malton	119.49
Truro and Falmouth	428.40
Weaver Vale	616.56
West Dorset	127.40
Weston-super-Mare	278.25
Wolverhampton South East	150.50
Worcester	364.00
Wyre and Preston North	97.49
York Outer	455.00

Total of claims made in the financial year 2009-10 by constituency (based on the pre-2010 boundaries)

	HOC (£)
Aberavon	634.91
Aberdeen South	875.00
Alyn and Deeside	350.00
Argyll and Bute	875.00
Ashfield	315.00
Ashton-under-Lyne	263.86
Banff and Buchan	875.00
Barnsley Central	213.50
Barnsley East and Mexborough	880.25
Barnsley West and Penistone	262.50
Barrow and Furness	417.38
Bassetlaw	3,039.84
Bath	106.11
Batley and Spen	217.14
Belfast South	875.00
Birmingham, Edgbaston	173.25
Birmingham, Erdington	254.55
Birmingham, Hall Green	309.03
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	943.33
Birmingham, Ladywood	104.00
Birmingham, Northfield	282.02
Birmingham, Selly Oak	348.29
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	721.28
Bishop Auckland	826.47
Blaby	140.34
Blackpool South	1,499.03
Blaenau Gwent	808.63
Bolton South East	860.23
Bolton West	746.90
Boston and Skegness	108.64
Bournemouth East	149.63
Bradford South	286.16
East Devon	530.18
Eccles	306.25
Eddisbury	389.20
Edinburgh South	139.42
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	875.00
Forest of Dean	741.48
Fylde	237.93
Gainsborough	315.00
Gateshead East and Washington West	[illegible]1.28
Gedling	309.75
Glasgow North	455.00
Glasgow North West	455.00
Gordon	875.00
Gower	238.00
Great Yarmouth	129.68
Harborough	313.25
Hazel Grove	539.53
Hexham	455.00
Inverclyde	1,666.18
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	875.00
Isle of Wight	1,324.58
Kingston upon Hull East	437.50
Kingston upon Hull North	964.57
Lancaster and Wyre	1,983.37
Leeds East	1,185.70
Leicester South	127.75

Total of claims made in the financial year 2009-10 by constituency (based on the pre-2010 boundaries)

	HOC (£)
Leicester West	106.31
Leominster	432.04
Lincoln	178.36
Liverpool, Riverside	180.67
Liverpool, Wavertree	343.00
Livingston	417.26
Llanelli	1,312.50
Pendle	764.10
Peterborough	153.04
Poole	121.88
Preseli Pembrokeshire	593.25
Preston	242.67
Redcar	455.00
Rhondda	197.75
Ross, Skye and Lochaber	1,423.00
Rossendale and Darwen	588.09
Rotherham	834.91
Rushcliffe	262.47
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	455.00
Rutland and Melton	150.50
Salisbury	588.89
Selby	371.88
Sheffield, Brightside	255.64
Sheffield, Hallam	210.00
Sheffield, Hillsborough	645.91
Sherwood	1,122.87
Shipley	125.72
Shrewsbury and Atcham	140.82
Skipton and Ripon	784.40
Sleaford and North Hykeham	170.56
Solihull	295.60
Somerton and Frome	161.00
South Derbyshire	169.75
South Dorset	224.00
South Holland and The Deepings	212.29
South Norfolk	709.25
South Staffordshire	192.50
South Swindon	1,120.86
South West Devon	540.64
South West Norfolk	167.30
Wythenshawe and Sale East	192.50
Yeovil	189.00

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made; [27262]

(2) what the monetary value of grants awarded by his Department was in 2009-10; and how much he expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [27216]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In accordance with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the Department for International Development (DFID) defines grants as "transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient". This would account for the entirety of DFID's budget not allocated to loans and promissory notes.

Detailed information on awards in relation to these grants is not available without incurring disproportionate cost. However, we can provide details on resource spend for 2009-10 of £5,281 million and forecast resource spend for 2010-11 of £5,817 million. Both these figures exclude loans and promissory notes and include administration costs, in accordance with OECD DAC guidelines. Forecast resource spend for 2011-12 is not yet available.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the One UN approach to UN agencies work in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [27702]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: A number of evaluations of the One UN pilots have been carried out by country governments and the UN. These demonstrate that some progress has been made, such as aligning the UN closer to national frameworks and priorities. However, Delivering as One needs to go further to improve the effectiveness of the work of UN agencies in developing countries. The Multilateral Aid Review will assess how effective UN agencies are in working together, this will report in early 2011. An independent evaluation of Delivering as One is due for completion in 2011.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Sri Lanka on his Department's capacity to *(a)* provide and *(b)* fund programmes to rehabilitate internally-displaced persons and refugees in that country. [26473]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have had no recent discussions. The British High Commission in Colombo is in close contact with the Government of Sri Lanka. Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) recently visited the country to assess the situation and review the impact of our remaining humanitarian projects, which target internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The IDP situation in Sri Lanka has significantly improved with more than 270,000 displaced people released or returned to their homes and approximately 22,000 people remaining in camps. The UK's £13.5 million emergency humanitarian programme, which began in 2008, has provided water and sanitation, healthcare, shelter, cash grants and livelihoods recovery for displaced and returning families. This funding will be completed at the end of the current financial year after which we will continue funding for demining, to help enable those persons still displaced to return home. DFID has not provided aid, other than humanitarian assistance, to Sri Lanka since 2006, when the country graduated to middle income status.

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has had recent discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka on land

and property restitution programmes for the purposes of resettlement and assisting those displaced during the civil war in that country. [26474]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have had no recent discussions. The British High Commissioner in Colombo and other UK Government officials are in regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka on a range of issues, including land rights. This subject has been raised on a number of occasions recently.

World Bank

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on reform of the World Bank; and if he will make a statement. [27703]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Multilateral Aid Review being carried out by my Department is assessing the effectiveness and value for money provided by multilateral organisations we fund in delivering UK development objectives. The World Bank is one of the organisations being assessed. The review will identify areas where the performance of each multilateral needs to improve, and that will provide a basis for us to discuss with them the reforms required. I will be publishing the results of the Multilateral Aid Review, including an assessment of the World Bank, and the implications for our funding and future engagement in February 2011.

WALES

Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much funding her Department has allocated in grants for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much such funding she plans to allocate for 2011-12. [27673]

Mr David Jones: Nil.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian medical staff in each speciality have been employed by Defence Medical Services to provide support to Operation Herrick in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of each type of support in each such year. [26807]

Mr Robathan: The costs associated with civilian medical support to the operations in Afghanistan for the financial year 2009-10 and estimated costs for 2010-11 to date are:

Support to Operation Herrick—UK-based civilian medical personnel

	Specialism	*Total cost (£)*
Financial year 2009-10	Locum dentists	84,781
	Dental nurses	9,852
	Counselling psychologist	1,320
	Community psychiatric nurses	32,310
	Health care assistant	151,551
	Locum general practitioners	203,916
	Nurses	473,968
	Occupational therapists	215,570
	Pharmacist	56,223
	Physiotherapist	458,922
	Psychologist	34,301
	Remedial instructor	139,028
	Social worker	128,878
	Sports rehabilitation	12,750
Total		2,003,370
Financial year 2010-11	Locum dentists	127,960
	Counselling psychologist	7,081
	Community psychiatric nurses	6,519
	Health care assistant	99,205
	Locum general practitioners	8,374
	Nurses	508,453
	Occupational therapists	233,487
	Physiotherapist	751,135
	Social worker	123,317
	Sports rehabilitation	107,819
	Registrar	19,530
	Senior care manager	17,995
	Podiatrist	33,516
	Exercise rehabilitation	58,546
	Consultants	36,334
Total		2,139,271

Support to Operation Herrick—Theatre-based civilian medical personnel

	NHS seconded nurses	*Total cost (£)*
Financial year 2009-10	NHS	58,844
Financial year 2010-11	NHS	291,810
	NHS-Paediatric	94,031

In addition, Army primary health care services costs attributed to the support of Operation Herrick for funding locums such as GPs, nurses, physiotherapists and health care assistants to backfill gaps in medical facilities arising from individuals deploying on Operation Herrick are as follows:

financial year 2008-09: £1.6 million;

financial year 2009-10: £2.2 million; and

financial year 2010-11: £2.4 million.

It is not possible to provide a more detailed breakdown of these costs.

The Defence Medical Services also has an enabling contract for contracted medical support (nursing, medical support services and doctors) to Operation Herrick. The costs of this are:

financial year 2009-10: £0.925 million; and

financial year 2010-11 to date: £0.596 million.

Other information requested is not held in the required format and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has a contract for the protection of supply convoys in Afghanistan with *(a)* Watan Risk Management and *(b)* Kandahar Security Force; and if he will make a statement; [26835]

(2) whether his Department has a contract for the protection of supply convoys in Afghanistan with *(a)* Commander Ruhullah, *(b)* Colonel Abdul Razziq, *(c)* Pacha Khan Zadran, *(d)* Abdul Wali Khan and *(e)* Commander Matiullah Kahn; and if he will make a statement; [26836]

(3) whether private security companies contracted by his Department are required to be licensed; and if he will make a statement; [26837]

(4) how many private security companies are contracted by his Department in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [26838]

Nick Harvey: The Department does not contract with private military security companies in Afghanistan.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents of attacks on supply convoys supplying UK forces in Afghanistan were recorded in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [26839]

Nick Harvey: Supplies are delivered to UK Forces in Afghanistan through a number of means, including military convoys, and contractor logistic convoys, contracted both by the UK and NATO. As a result we do not hold centrally complete statistics relating to the number of incidents of attacks on convoys supplying UK forces.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his ~~Department~~ has used the host nation trucking contract to supply UK forces serving in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [26841]

Nick Harvey: No. The Afghan host nation trucking contract belongs to the US Department of Defence, and is used to supply US troops in Afghanistan.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department employs private security contractors to provide highway security for supply convoys in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [26851]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence does not contract with private military security companies in Afghanistan.

Eric Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have served in Afghanistan since 2001. [26891]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* As at 1 October 2010, 95,160 past and present members of the UK armed forces have been identified as having deployed to Afghanistan. This figure only includes those people working within the geographical boundaries of Afghanistan. It does not include personnel who deployed to Afghanistan between the periods 1 January 2003 and 14 October 2005 for which data are not available.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who in his Department is responsible for the operational management of contracts with trucking companies to supply UK forces serving in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [26924]

Nick Harvey: Joint Force Support, the UK's logistic Brigade in Afghanistan, is responsible for the in-theatre management of contracts, as well as ordering from those managed by NATO. Defence Equipment and Support manage contracts to move supplies to theatre and Defence Food Services manage a food supply contract.

Air Force: Deployment

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Royal Air Force fighters were scrambled from *(a)* RAF Leuchars and *(b)* RAF Coningsby to intercept aircraft in each of the last five years. [27577]

Nick Harvey: The number of days on which Royal Air Force Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft have been launched in each of the last five years is contained in the following table:

Number of days QRA launched

	Number
2006	[1]2
2007	19
2008	15
2009	14
2010	[2]13

[1] Records held from September 2006. [2] To date.

QRA aircraft are held at ground readiness at RAF Coningsby and RAF Leuchars. I am withholding the information as to which base QRA aircraft were launched from for each incident as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Aircraft Carriers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the effect on his Department's costs of the decision to change the in-service date of HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. [26871]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review determined that we will build two Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers but only use one routinely, holding the other at extended readiness. We will convert the operational carrier with catapults and arrestor gear to allow us to procure the more capable carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter.

The Ministry of Defence made initial estimates of the cost impact of measures for the purposes of formulating policy. We now need time to investigate and assess the best means of delivery. Until this work is completed, the MOD is not prepared to release any cost estimates.

Armed Forces: Allowances

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what allowance his Department provides to *(a)* service personnel, *(b)* ex-service personnel and *(c)* dependants of service personnel. [26862]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence provide service personnel and their dependants with a wide range of allowances ranging from accommodation allowances to separation and compensatory allowances. A comprehensive list of these allowances and their eligibility criteria is given in the Joint Service Publication 752, Tri-Service Regulations for Allowances, which is available in the Library of the House.

Former members of the armed forces do not receive allowances from the Ministry of Defence although certain provisions may be made available to them, such as the provision of a dedicated free helpline and access to a free medical assessment programme. Some one-off grants are available in some instances, such as the funding for the War Widow(er)s Pilgrimage Scheme.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Strategic Defence and Security Review, page 6, what steps he is taking to renew the military covenant. [26796]

Mr Robathan: Our commitment to rebuilding the covenant will set the tone for Government policy aimed at improving the welfare of service personnel, their families, and former service personnel.

In our programme for government, we described a number of measures which are designed to rebuild the covenant. We have already announced the doubling of operational allowance, changes to rest and recuperation leave and a "Troops to Teachers" programme.

Armed Forces: Health Professions

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current shortfall is in respect of medical personnel of each rank available for active service; and if he will make a statement. [26805]

Mr Robathan: A breakdown of Defence Medical Services (DMS) regular medical personnel manning levels are provided in the following table. While shortfalls exist in some specialties the DMS have met all the operational requirements placed on them. Medical support to deployed operations is absolutely vital and there is no question of British forces deploying on military operations without the appropriate medical support.

Where a particular specialty is in short supply within the Defence Medical Services to support deployed operations, a flexible manning approach is used drawing upon regular personnel, reserves and allied forces and on occasions a limited number of civilian contractors are deployed to support operations and to backfill positions in the United Kingdom to allow uniformed personnel to deploy.

The total number of personnel required by the DMS is neither calculated nor held by rank; therefore shortfall is shown by specialty, with the trained strength (as at 1 April 2010) split into 'officer ranks' and 'other ranks'.

Actions are being taken to ensure that the DMS recruit and train sufficient staff particularly against specialities where there are shortfalls; however, the long duration of medical training means it will take some years before current shortages are fully addressed.

Defence medical personnel levels as at 1 April 2010

		Trained strength			
Job/specialty	*Requirement*	*Officer Rank*	*Other Ranks*	*Total*	*Shortfall*
Dental Officers					
General Dental Practitioners	248.67	212	n/a	212	36.67
Dental Public Health Officers	5.33	2	n/a	2	3.33
Dental Support Officers	7.33	6	n/a	6	1.33
Dental Surgery Assistants	423	n/a	415	415	8
Dental Hygienists	73	n/a	52	52	21
Dental Technicians	26	n/a	26	26	0
Medical Support Services					
Environmental Health Officer	31.33	25	n/a	25	6.33
Pharmacist	22	11	n/a	11	11
Physiotherapist	93.67	86	n/a	86	7.67
Biomedical Scientist	63	6	57	63	0
Operating Department Practitioner	124.33	2	164	166	-41.67
Radiographer	48	3	35	38	10
EH Technician	118	0	95	95	23
Pharmacy Technician	61	0	63	63	-2
Physiological Measurement Technician	11	1	6	7	4
Medical Services Officers	511.67	444	n/a	444	67.67
Medical Assistants/ Combat Medical Technicians	3112.3	n/a	2895	2895	217.3
Nurses					
Burns and Plastics	16	5	2	7	9
Emergency Medicine	210.3	60	80	140	70.3
Genito-Urinary	13	2	7	9	4
Infection Control	14.33	5	2	7	7.33
Intensive Care	222.3	86	36	122	100.3
Nurse Tutors	22	15	6	21	1
Occupational Health	14	11	3	14	0
Operating Theatre	66	33	18	51	15
Orthopaedic	34	18	15	33	1
Primary Health Care	92.3	48	126	174	-81.7
Registered Mental Nurse	123	41	76	117	6
Registered General Nursing	636	161	417	578	58
Ear, Nose and Throat	12	1	0	1	11
Gynaecology	11	0	0	0	11
Neurosurgery	13	0	0	0	13
Ophthalmology	16	0	1	1	15
Other Specialties	2	2	8	10	-8
Health Care Assistants	193	1	150	151	42
Medical Officers					
Anaesthetists	95	56	n/a	56	39
Aviation (RN and Army)	13	9	n/a	9	4
Aviation Medicine	7	3	n/a	3	4
Burns and Plastics Surgeons	6	9	n/a	9	-3
Dermatology	3	1	n/a	1	2
Diving	4	1	n/a	1	3

Defence medical personnel levels as at 1 April 2010

		Trained strength			
Job/specialty	*Requirement*	*Officer Rank*	*Other Ranks*	*Total*	*Shortfall*
Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons	5	9	n/a	9	-4
Emergency Medicine (Accident and Emergency)	30	19	n/a	19	11
General Physician	29	17	n/a	17	12
General Medical Practitioners	323	251	n/a	251	72
General Surgeons	39.67	24	n/a	24	15.67
Genito-Urinary Medicine/Urology	3	2	n/a	2	1
Gynaecological Surgeons	3	0	n/a	0	3
Haematology	4	0	n/a	0	4
Maxillofacial Surgeons	9	7	n/a	7	2
Medical Officers (RN)	16	6	n/a	6	10
Microbiology	5	1	n/a	1	4
Neurologist	3	1	n/a	1	2
Neurosurgeons	3	0	n/a	0	3
Occupational Health	32.33	32	n/a	32	0.33
Ophthalmological Surgeons	5	7	n/a	7	-2
Orthopaedic Surgeons	27	26	n/a	26	1
Paediatrics	0	1	n/a	1	-1
Pathologists	5	2	n/a	2	3
Psychiatrists	28.33	14	n/a	14	14.33
Public Health	6.67	10	n/a	10	-3.33
Radiation	3	2	n/a	2	1
Radiologist	6	9	n/a	9	-3
Rehabilitation Medicine	11.66	7	n/a	7	4.66

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of deployment on operations was for defence medical personnel of each rank in each year since 2005. [26806]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Operational tour lengths for Defence Medical Service personnel routinely vary between eight weeks and six months depending on their service and their particular speciality: rank of personnel is not a contributory factor in length of deployment.

Consultants deploy for an average of eight weeks, nurses and hospital based personnel deploy for three to six months, while headquarters and support personnel would deploy for six months. Additionally, Royal Navy personnel are considered operational when serving at sea which can last up to two years, although they may not be away from the UK for the whole of this period.

While there is not a fixed period of deployment for defence medical personnel, the Army, Royal Navy and RAF set individual guidelines for the maximum time service personnel should spend away and the minimum time that they should have between operational deployments, known as 'Harmony Guidelines'. This information is continuously monitored by the single services.

Armed Forces: Young People

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of new infantry recruits were aged under 18 years in each year since 2001-02. [27325]

Mr Robathan: The figures for the percentage of those entering phase one infantry training under the age of 18 are as follows:

	Percentage under 18
2001-02	58
2002-03	50
2003-04	50
2004-05	50
2005-06	50
2006-07	44
2007-08	39
2008-09	34
2009-10	28

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of infantry soldiers were aged 21 or below in each year since 2001-02. [27329]

Mr Robathan: The proportion of infantry soldiers aged 21 or below since 2001 is as follows:

As at 1 April each year	*Percentage*
2001	37
2002	37
2003	36
2004	36
2005	34
2006	33
2007	33
2008	32
2009	31
2010	29

The figures are for trained and untrained regular personnel only. Figures from 2007 onwards are provisional while work continues to validate data held on the Joint Personnel Administration system.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review, page 24, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of introducing the Future Rapid Effects System Utility Vehicle. [26793]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence does not publish the costs of programmes or in-service dates until after their main investment decision point. To do otherwise could potentially undermine our commercial position.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review, page 24, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of introducing a new range of medium weight armoured vehicles, including Terrier engineer vehicles and the Scout reconnaissance vehicles. [26795]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence currently has three medium weight armoured vehicle procurement programmes under way: the Terrier engineer vehicle, the Utility Vehicle (UV), and the Specialist Vehicle (SV), of which the Scout reconnaissance vehicle is a variant.

The total estimated cost or in-service dates of the UV and SV programmes cannot be confirmed until their respective Main Investment Decisions are made. The Terrier engineer vehicle programme has passed Main Investment Decision and is currently in the Demonstration and Manufacture Phase. The programme will cost approximately £386 million.

Clyde Naval Base

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what published information he has made available to local organisations and individuals about his estimates of the *(a)* trend in the number of service personnel based at HM Naval Base Clyde and *(b)* the projected number of (i) single living accommodation bed spaces and (ii) service family accommodation properties to be built between now and 2021. [26317]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* On 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 17WS, as part of an announcement regarding the Maritime Change Programme, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) confirmed that HM Naval Base Clyde will become the main operating base for all classes of submarines, including the future classes of submarines, such as the replacement for the Vanguard Class. Since then, the MOD has and continues to work closely with the local authorities in the Clyde area to assess the potential impact of this decision. This has included releasing preliminary information, which includes initial estimates of the potential numbers of personnel likely to move to the naval base and their potential accommodation requirements. The information released was for future planning purposes only and does not reflect what might be the final position.

In view of his interest in this matter, I will write to the right hon. Member to provide him with a copy of the data released to Clyde local authorities along with an explanation of how these forecasts have been calculated.

Defence: Procurement

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what issues relating to *(a)* lengths and *(b)* intervals of tours of duty are being considered as part of the Defence Reform Unit's review. [26291]

Dr Fox: As set out in the strategic defence and security review White Paper I have initiated a review of force generation including tour lengths and harmony guidelines. The review will consider a wide range of factors including the impact on the morale and long-term sustainability of the armed forces and the implications of tour length on operational effectiveness, derived from continuity and sustainability. The Defence Reform Unit alongside the single Service Chiefs will ensure that we are being as efficient and effective as possible. I have asked that the review reports to me by July 2011.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [25041]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 18 November 2010]:* The departmental figures for FY 2010-11 are the forecast payments to be made this financial year. The funding allocation for the forward years has still to be agreed.

Name of grant/grant in aid	*FY 2010-11 (£ million)*
Veterans Challenge Fund	0.280
Armed Forces Day	0.290
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association—Tri-Service activities	105.489
Sports Board—in support of Tri-Service activities	0.811
Museums e.g. Army, Air, Navy	20.568
Welfare Grants	2.457
St Clement Danes Church	0.020
Royal Navy Historic Flight	0.225
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	44.641
National Memorial Arboretum	0.523
Grants to the Royal British Legion	0.115
Scott Polar Research Institute	0.035
Gurkha Welfare Trust	1.155
Royal Hospital Chelsea	10.838
Royal Irish Benevolent Fund	0.127
Council of Voluntary Welfare Work in Germany (Welfare Council)	0.031
RMB Chivenor Nursery	0.015
Duke of York's Royal Military School	0.786
Victoria Cross and George Cross Association	0.040

Explosives

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capabilities to counter *(a)* explosive ordnance and *(b)* improvised explosive devices will receive increased funding from his Department in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [26863]

Peter Luff: During the spending review period the Ministry of Defence will continue to invest in a wide range of capabilities to counter explosive ordnance and improvised explosive devices. Specific enhancements in this area will be agreed as part of the annual departmental financial planning round, which has yet to be completed. Urgent operational requirements will be addressed in the normal manner as they materialise.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to disclose the top secret documents relating to UK atomic tests in compliance with the order from the War Pensions Tribunal; and if he will make a statement. [26800]

Mr Robathan: There have been an unusually high number of complex requests for classified information and documents in the current group of war pensions appeals' cases. The Ministry of Defence continues to work closely with the War Pensions Tribunal to find proportionate and cost-effective ways of ensuring that all relevant documents are disclosed and to meet the various timescales set out in the judge's latest set of directions. Special security arrangements have been agreed with the tribunal to ensure appropriate handling of any highly classified documents.

Falklands Islands

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what analysis his Department undertook of the capability of the armed forces in respect of defending the Falkland Islands from attack prior to the recent agreement with the government of France. [26665]

Nick Harvey: The Government remain unequivocally committed to the defence of the Falkland Islands. There have been no material changes made to the forces at the disposal of Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands, which include Typhoon aircraft on Quick Reaction Alert, C-130 and VC-10 aircraft, a dedicated Falkland Islands Patrol Vessel, the Roulement Infantry Company, the Falkland Islands Ground Defence Force, helicopter assets (including search and rescue), the Resident Rapier Battery, and various fixed installations on the islands. There is also no change to the continuous Royal Naval presence in the region.

Additionally, I refer the hon. Member to comments made by the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) during debates in the House on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 787, and 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1071-72.

France: Military Alliances

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the proposed UK-France treaty on nuclear weapons co-operation, whether military flights between the UK and France will involve the transportation of nuclear materials. [27416]

Dr Fox: Some small amounts of nuclear materials will be transferred by military flights between the UK and France but there will be no transfer of ownership between the two states. Any necessary movements of nuclear materials between the UK and France in support of hydrodynamics experimentation will be conducted under the appropriate safety and regulatory regimes and will be consistent with our international treaty obligations.

HMS Astute

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects HMS Astute to resume sea trials. [22951]

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on repairs to HMS Astute; and when it is likely to become operational. [23290]

Peter Luff: Following the grounding incident, which occurred off the Isle of Skye on 22 October, HMS Astute returned to Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde at Faslane under her own power and was docked in the shiplift to enable detailed damage assessments and then repairs to be undertaken.

The comprehensive range of assessments revealed that during the grounding incident, HMS Astute's lower rudder skeg was damaged. As a result of the subsequent towing incident, which occurred as HMS Astute was being towed in to deeper waters, the starboard forward hydroplane, a casing plate and a small number of surrounding anechoic tiles, as well as the rip-tow, which is a fitted towline attached to the submarine, were also damaged.

I can confirm that the repairs required as a result of these two incidents have now been completed and, on 24 November, HMS Astute exited the shiplift facility. Consistent with normal practices, HMS Astute was assisted by tug from the shiplift to a submarine berth within the naval base.

HMS Astute is now preparing to continue her extensive, First of Class, programme of training and sea trials. For security reasons I am unable to confirm when HMS Astute will sail from HMNB Clyde; however, the Department anticipates that this will be in December. Following completion of the training and sea trials programme, current plans indicate that HMS Astute will be ready for operational handover in 2012.

Military Intelligence

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance capabilities will receive increased funding from his Department in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [26869]

Peter Luff: During the spending review period the Ministry of Defence will continue to invest in a wide range of intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance capabilities. Specific enhancements in this area will be agreed as part of the departmental financial planning round process, which has yet to be completed.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of fulfilling the UK's obligations under the Convention on International Civil Aviation in respect of civilian search and rescue using *(a)* the Nimrod MRA4 and *(b)* alternative arrangements; and if he will make a statement; [26947]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 450-1W, on Nimrod aircraft, what estimate he has made of the future support costs of *(a)* aircrew, *(b)* training, *(c)* fuel, *(d)* spares and *(e)* ground crew in relation to (i) 21, (ii) 19 and (iii) nine Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [26948]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the total lifecycle cost over 10 years in real terms of the Nimrod MRA4 in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 2010 over a 25 year life cycle; and if he will make a statement; [26949]

(4) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of providing search and rescue cover for *(a)* Typhoons and *(b)* F-35 JSFs refuelling over the ocean from the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft using (i) the Nimrod MRA4 and (ii) alternative forms of cover; and if he will make a statement; [26955]

(5) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of providing airborne intelligence, surveillance, target

acquisition and reconnaissance support for counter-terrorism purposes in UK waters using *(a)* the Nimrod MRA4 and *(b)* alternative methods; and if he will make a statement; [27011]

(6) what instructions he has given in relation to future *(a)* sale, *(b)* mothballing and *(c)* decommissioning of the Nimrod MRA4 fleet; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each option; and if he will make a statement; [27015]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has considered a range of options and concluded that the most cost effective is for the nine aircraft to be disposed of following recovery of equipment and systems that can be used elsewhere. Discussions are continuing with BAE Systems on the detail of the disposal.

The MOD made estimates of cost savings accrued from measures considered in the Strategic Defence and Security Review for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. In the case of the Nimrod MRA4 we estimate that around £2 billion will be saved over the next 10 years, by not bringing the aircraft into service. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed savings or updated estimated in-service cost figures at this time.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the capabilities are of the *(a)* dipping sonar of the Merlin helicopter and *(b)* deployable Sonobuoys of the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement. [26992]

Peter Luff: Merlin helicopters can deploy the same sonobuoy types as planned to be used by the Nimrod MRA4, while simultaneously using its dipping sonar. I am withholding further information as its release could prejudice the security, capability and effectiveness of the armed forces.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* speed of reaction, *(b)* radius of action and *(c)* endurance is of (i) the Merlin helicopter and (ii) Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement. [26993]

Peter Luff: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on lift requirements of operation Herrick of the use of C-130J's as a replacement for the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [26995]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the use of C-130J aircraft as a replacement for the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [27012]

(3) what the current deployment is of the C-130 and C-130K aircraft which are expected to replace the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [27017]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the retirement of the C-130K in 2012 on its use as a replacement for the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement. [27023]

Peter Luff: The C-130 Hercules is not a replacement aircraft for the Nimrod MRA4. There will be no effect on the lift requirements of Operation Herrick. The withdrawal of the C-130K in December 2012 will not affect the situation as its tasks will transfer to the C-130J as part of the drawdown plan.

The in-service fleet consists of 14 Hercules C-130K and 24 Hercules C-130J. The aircraft operate from RAF Lyneham. Aircraft support UK contingency operations and are deployed around the world on operations or exercises, but largely in support of Op Herrick.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* possible uses for and *(b)* the cost to the public purse of the use of Nimrod MRA4 aircraft in an overland intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance role in support of land forces in Afghanistan in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [27013]

(2) what assessment he has made of the consequences of ceasing Nimrod MRA4 aircraft support for the overland intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance role in support of land forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [27014]

Peter Luff: The Nimrod MRA4 maritime patrol aircraft has been assessed as unsuited to overland operations in Afghanistan. Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance capabilities are being delivered by a range of assets in Afghanistan, and they are kept under constant review to ensure that they continue to meet our mission objectives.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the earliest possible date for a remotely-piloted aircraft to be introduced as a replacement for the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [27018]

(2) what assessment he has made of the cost to his Department of the use of remotely-piloted aircraft as a replacement for the Nimrod MRA4 for *(a)* intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, *(b)* maritime protection and *(c)* search and rescue; and if he will make a statement. [27019]

Peter Luff: Our requirements for Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) maritime patrol and search and rescue capabilities were assessed during the strategic defence and security review and these are kept under regular review. Any future change to our requirements will be considered as part of the Department's capability planning process.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with the French Government on the use of Breguet Atlantiques as a substitute for the Nimrod MRA4 *(a)* intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, *(b)* maritime protection and *(c)* search and rescue; and if he will make a statement; [27020]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of the introduction of the French Breguet Atlantiques as a substitute for the Nimrod MRA4 for *(a)* intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, *(b)* maritime protection and *(c)* search and rescue; and if he will make a statement; [27021]

(3) what discussions he has had with the US Administration on the use of P3 Orions as a substitute for the Nimrod MRA4 for *(a)* intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, *(b)* maritime protection and *(c)* search and rescue; and if he will make a statement; [27022]

(4) whether any *(a)* maritime patrol, *(b)* search and rescue and *(c)* intelligence gathering capability will be lost as a result of the use of P3 Orions as a substitute for the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [27024]

(5) whether any *(a)* maritime patrol, *(b)* search and rescue and *(c)* intelligence gathering capability will be lost as a result of the use of French Breguet Atlantiques as a substitute for the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [27025]

(6) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the introduction of the American P3 Orions as a substitute for the Nimrod MRA4 for *(a)* intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, *(b)* maritime protection and *(c)* search and rescue; and if he will make a statement. [27027]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has regular discussions with the Defence Departments of the United States and France on a variety of issues. We currently have no plans to replace the Nimrod MRA4 with either the P3 Orion, or the Breguet Atlantique.

A range of military assets is used to mitigate the capability gap which emerged as a result of the withdrawal from service of Nimrod MR2 in March 2010. Following the decision not to bring the MRA4 into service, we will continue taking these measures forward. Further requirements which might emerge as a result of any change to the threat will be considered as part of the Department's capability planning process.

Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review, what estimate he has made of the savings that will accrue to his Department through efficiencies in military training in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [26309]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the strategic defence and security review for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trade unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity and health and safety. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

One specific area of work that we will be focussing on is the Defence Technical Training Change Programme (DTTCP) which, following the termination of the Defence Training Rationalisation (DTR) project on 19 October 2010, is a new programme that has been established to build upon the work already started under DTR. DTTCP aims to deliver efficiencies through estate rationalisation and improvements in the delivery of tri-service technical training.

Trident

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 449W, on Trident value for money review, what external assistance and technical consultancy his Department commissioned for the Trident value for money review; and how much it spent on each piece of work commissioned. [25781]

Dr Fox: £70,000 was spent on assessing the scope for improving efficiency within the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) and a further £120,000 was spent reviewing site infrastructure and processes across the AWE estate. In addition, £10,000 was spent modelling cost and risk on the successor deterrent submarine.

Overall, the value for money review produced savings of £1.2 billion and deferred spending of up to £2 billion over the next 10 years.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of replacing Trident in current prices. [27413]

Dr Fox: The 2006 White Paper "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) stated that the total procurement costs of the successor deterrent capability will be in the region of £15 billion to £20 billion, at 2006-07 prices. Once the initial gate investment decision for the replacement submarine has been taken, I will be in a position to release more up-to-date costs.

HEALTH

Abortion Act 1967

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents his Department has published consequent on the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 since May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [26633]

Anne Milton: The provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Registration of Regulated Activities) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/660) required all independent sector providers who carry out regulated activities (such as abortion), to register with the Care Quality Commission from 1 October 2010. Failure to register constitutes an offence under the Act. The authoritative text of statutory instruments is published on the website of the Office for the Public Sector.

No other statutory instruments, departmental circulars or other documents consequent on the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 were published by the Department during the period in question.

Blood: Contamination

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 18 years have died as a result of receiving contaminated blood products while undergoing treatment in the NHS. [26833]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not available in the format requested before the dates identified here. Such information as is available is as follows:

There have been no confirmed reports of any children under the age of 18 who have died as a result of receiving contaminated blood components while undergoing treatment in the national health service since 8 November 2005, when it became a statutory requirement for all United Kingdom blood establishments and hospital blood banks to report serious adverse blood reactions and serious adverse blood events to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This applies to whole blood, red cell concentrates, platelets, fresh frozen plasma, cryoprecipitate, granulocytes and buffy coat preparations.

MHRA have not received any adverse drug reaction reports regarding medicinal blood products associated with blood contamination and death since the Yellow Card scheme started in 1964.

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, Northern Ireland and *(d)* each region of England have been affected by the provision of contaminated blood or blood products in NHS facilities. [27117]

Anne Milton: Between 8 November 2005 and 26 November 2010 the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) received a total of 35 verified reports. One of these reports came from Wales, two from Scotland, none from Northern Ireland, and 32 from England. Of the 32 verified reports from England, one came from London, eight from the north-west, seven from south-central, four from the south-west, three from the west midlands and nine from Yorkshire and the Humber. 34 of these reports related to bacterial contamination and one related to a possible viral contamination with Hepatitis B.

It is not known exactly how many patients in total were affected by the provision of HIV and/or hepatitis C contaminated blood or blood products in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made of the merits of a fixed tariff compensation scheme for those affected by contaminated blood. [27383]

Anne Milton: The ex gratia schemes that are currently in place are not compensation but provide financial relief for those affected by contaminated blood. I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

Blood: Diseases

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether collaboration takes place between his Department and the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to assess risks posed to public health by climate change-related bloodborne pathogens. [27432]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health collaborates widely on issues related to climate change.

The Government are committed to tackling the effects of climate change on health, which could intensify existing disease burdens and health inequalities.

The Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency jointly published, "Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK 2008" which focused on the quantitative aspects of possible impacts of climate change on health. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently taking forward a national Climate Change Risk Assessment as required by the Climate Change Act 2008. The project is assessing the key risks and opportunities to the United Kingdom from climate change. Risks from new and emerging pathogens are being considered as part of this assessment. Additionally, the Department's National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections keeps the risks to public health from such threats under constant review.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to *(a)* assess and *(b)* mitigate the risks to public health posed by (i) the Asian tiger mosquito and (ii) other bloodborne disease vectors. [27433]

Anne Milton: As the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is not present in the United Kingdom, and our climate does not support its lifecycle, there are no steps necessary to mitigate the risks to public health from this mosquito.

The risks to public health posed by the vectors of other blood-borne diseases have been assessed. Surveillance for mosquito and tick disease vectors was undertaken, and West Nile Virus was identified as a key public health risk to the UK. A plan has therefore been developed for the introduction of West Nile Virus to the UK, although the risk of this occurring is considered low. The Health Protection Agency currently runs mosquito and tick surveillance schemes to monitor the situation.

Blood: Donors

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the healthcare industry on the introduction of pathogen reduction technology in the NHS. [26935]

Anne Milton: Representations have been received in the last year from Cerus in relation to pathogen inactivation and from Macopharma in relation to prion reduction filters.

Representations on technologies to reduce health care associated infections are submitted to the Rapid Review Panel (RRP) for consideration. The RRP deals with up to 100 submissions each year and their recommendations are published on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733741864

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to increase the range of pathogen reduction technologies used for the treatment of blood products in NHS facilities; and if he will make a statement. [26941]

Anne Milton: Decisions on the introduction of new pathogen reduction technologies for the treatment of blood products are informed by assessments of their efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness.

Blood: EU Law

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on transposing the EU Blood Directive 2002/98/EC into domestic regulations and guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [27431]

Anne Milton: The EU Blood Directive 2002/98/EC was transposed into domestic regulation through the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005 No. 50, which came into force fully on 8 November 2005.

Cancer

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health If he will take steps to ensure that Plymouth Derriford Hospital Trust may receive income from making its CyberKnife technology available for the treatment of cancer patients. [25923]

Paul Burstow: Hospitals receive income from a variety of sources, such as through the payment by results national tariff and local contract payments for services not covered by the tariff.

Reimbursement for radiotherapy services falls outside the scope of the mandatory national tariff. The income that trusts receive for radiotherapy services, and the devices that are used in the delivery of these services, is subject to local negotiation between providers and commissioners.

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust will wish to ensure that when negotiating prices with its commissioners for radiotherapy services, the costs associated with the use of devices such as CyberKnife are taken into consideration.

Dental Services: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were seen by NHS dentists in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency in each of the last 10 years. [26931]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of people registered with a national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA). Annex C provides this information by parliamentary constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen in the previous 24-months, in England, is available in Table D1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2010/11, First quarterly report". Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2010 and is provided by PCT and SHA, but is not available by parliamentary constituency.

This report, published on 24 November 2010, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats1011q1

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25945]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Secretary of State for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25946]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The information requested since May 2010 is shown in the following tables.

	Questions for answer on a named day
Total number of parliamentary questions (PQs)	436

	Questions for answer on a named day
Answered on day named for answer	428
Proportion (percentage)	98.0
Number unanswered at 18 November 2010	0

	Questions for ordinary written answer
Total number of PQs	1,814
Answered within five sitting days[1]	1,646
Percentage	91.0
Answered within 10 sitting days	1,716
Percentage	95
Number unanswered at 18 November 2010	2

---

[1] The Government aim to reply to parliamentary questions within a working week and for consistency we measure performance against five sitting days.

The Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these average costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The estimated costs for each written question from 20 January 2010 is £154.

The Treasury, in making its assessment of the cost of answering questions, does not differentiate between the types of written questions.

Diabetes: Children

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the support and information on carbohydrate counting given to children with Type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [26852]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not made a formal assessment of the support and information available on carbohydrate counting provided to children with Type 1 diabetes. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has produced clinical guidelines on the management of Type 1 diabetes, which addresses education on insulin, dietary management and counting carbohydrate intake as an essential part of the care package.

Paediatric diabetes specialist teams play a vital role in good diabetes care, providing support and education including information on carbohydrate counting. The recently published NHS Diabetes care pathway on the management of Type 1 diabetes in childhood and adolescence stresses the importance of carbohydrate counting.

Disability: Children

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will write to primary care trusts setting out the baseline funding allocation for disabled children's frontline services for the next three years. [26996]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations are not broken down by policy or service area. Once allocated, it is for PCTs to commission the services they require to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of both local and national priorities.

PCTs have been informed of their revenue allocations up to 2010-11. Allocations post 2010-11 will be announced in December 2010.

From 2013-14 onwards, the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for the fair and efficient use of resources in the national health service. The detail of how resources are allocated to general practitioner (GP) consortia will be a matter for the Commissioning Board. Shadow allocations to GP consortia will be published in late 2011 for 2012-13, and actual allocations for 2013-14 in late 2012.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the effectiveness of coercive treatment for drug addiction in comparison to the effectiveness of voluntary treatment. [27616]

Anne Milton: The Home Office-commissioned Drug Treatment Outcome Research Study (DTORS, 2009) found that criminal justice referrals resulted in equivalent levels of change to non-criminal justice referrals across nearly all outcomes.

General Practitioners

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortia will be expected to engage directly with representatives of those local allied health professional bodies which have a formal relationship with strategic health authorities. [27161]

Anne Milton: We are not aware of any formal relationships between allied health professional bodies and strategic health authorities.

Effective general practitioner-led commissioning will require the full range of clinical and professional input alongside that of local people. Nurses, allied health professionals and others will all have a vital role to play, with a real opportunity to develop services and improve the health outcomes of their local populations.

Health Care: Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much additional funding he plans to allocate to the provision of health care to service personnel as part of the comprehensive spending review settlement for his Department in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [26294]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2010-11, primary care trusts (PCTs) received an increase in revenue funding of £4.4 billion (5.5%). The funding formula upon which the allocations are based takes account of the location of armed forces bases. However, PCT allocations are not broken down by service or policy area, rather it is for PCTs to commission primary and secondary health services to meet national and local priorities. This funding provides standard secondary care services to service personnel; however, their primary care services and non-standard secondary care services are funded by the Ministry of Defence through Defence Medical Services.

In October, the Government announced that health funding will grow by £10.6 billion during this spending review for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15. All patients, including serving personnel, will benefit from the increased funding for health set out in the spending review and from the White Paper reforms. PCT allocations post 2010-11 will be announced in December.

As part of its capital settlement, the Department will also contribute over the spending review period to the capital costs of two health initiatives led by the Ministry of Defence to support health care for the armed forces by providing a medical training establishment and new mental health facilities.

Health Services: Essex

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to assess the cost-benefit analysis of the cluster formed by the Mid Essex, North East Essex and West Essex primary care trusts; [27485]

(2) how many positions will be abolished in *(a)* the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust, *(b)* the North East Essex Primary Care Trust and *(c)* the West Essex Primary Care Trust as a result of those trusts forming a cluster; and what estimate he has made of the cost of staff leaving those trusts as a result of the merger; [27487]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* Mid Essex Primary Care Trust, *(b)* North East Essex Primary Care Trust and *(c)* West Essex Primary Care Trust of those trusts forming a cluster; [27488]

(4) when he received notification that the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust, the North East Essex Primary Care Trust and the West Essex Primary Care were forming a cluster. [27492]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department was advised in September 2010 of the changes to the local management arrangements of these primary care trusts (PCTs).

Under current legislation each PCT must have its own board and is legally responsible for carrying out its functions. However, it has a wide measure of discretion about its management arrangements. In particular it can employ such officers as it considers appropriate and can enter into arrangements to carry out its functions jointly with another PCT or arrange for another PCT to carry out its functions on its behalf.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* non-medical staff, *(b)* administrators, *(c)* managers and *(d)* senior managers there will be in (i) the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust, (ii) the North East Essex Primary Care Trust and (iii) the West Essex Primary Care Trust in each of the next three years. [27486]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The precise numbers of non-medical staff, administrators, managers and senior managers required over the next three years will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

The Department has consulted on how the new organisations should be designed and is analysing responses. Information on how the new organisations should be designed will be announced in due course.

The Government have fulfilled their commitment to give the national health service a real terms increase in funding each year. The demands on the service are rising and to meet these, the NHS must make up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014, by reducing bureaucracy and doing things differently. Every penny saved will be reinvested to support the delivery of quality health care.

Herbal Medicine

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the provision of herbal medicines in NHS facilities in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012, *(d)* 2013 and *(e)* 2014. [27333]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect central information on the cost of herbal medicines within national health service facilities.

It is for local health professionals and health care organisations to consider whether to provide and fund complementary and alternative therapies including herbal medicines. In taking such decisions they will wish to take account of issues including safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness and the availability of suitably qualified/regulated practitioners.

Hospitals: Coventry

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the total running costs for the University hospital, Coventry was paid to the private finance initiative provider in each year from 2006 to 2009; and what percentage of the total is projected to be paid to that provider in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [26854]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data for the proportion of total revenue expenditure by University hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust in respect of its private finance initiative (PFI) scheme, is set out in the table.

Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not comparable with later years as the PFI hospital did not fully open until part way through 2006-07.

Data are not held centrally for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

University hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust—proportion of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI

	Percentage of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI
2005-06	4.3
2006-07	12.7
2007-08	14.6
2008-09	14.6
2009-10[1]	14.3

[1] 2009-10 accounts were compiled under International Finance Reporting Standards under which PFI costs in the audited summarisation schedules of Trusts are split between capital repayments and revenue expenditure elements, which does not make a precise like for like comparison with earlier years in this table possible. However, an estimate of the PFI unitary payment for 2009-10 is held centrally by the Department as well as the audited outturn revenue expenditure figure for the Trust for this year and the percentage figure for this year is calculated using these two figures.

Notes:

1. The source of the data is the audited summarisation schedules of the Trust for 2005-06 to 2009-10.
2. The percentages provided represent the net revenue expenditure in respect of PFI schemes as a proportion of total revenue expenditure.
3. 2005-06 to 2008-09 figures compiled under UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Influenza: Vaccination

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of those aged 65 and over have taken up the seasonal flu vaccine in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [27219]

Anne Milton: Latest provisional data suggest that 62.1% of those aged 65 years and older in England had received this season's influenza vaccine by 21 November 2010.

A letter from the Director of Immunisation was sent to the national health service on 19 November 2010 to highlight the importance of achieving high uptake of seasonal influenza vaccine in eligible groups. This letter is available at the following link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_121934

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 664W, on mental health services, whether he plans to commission a study into the level of confidence of general practitioners in the quality of secondary mental health services. [27676]

Paul Burstow: There are currently no plans for such a study.

NHS Commissioning Board

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether representatives of allied health professionals will have a permanent role on the NHS National Commissioning Board under the proposals in the Health White Paper. [27162]

Anne Milton: Effective general practitioner-led commissioning will require the full range of clinical and professional input alongside that of local people. Allied health professionals will all have a vital role to play, with a real opportunity to develop services and improve the health outcomes of their local populations. The NHS Commissioning Board will also need to have access to appropriate professional advice in carrying out its functions. The forthcoming health Bill will set out further details about the membership of the Board and the process for making appointments.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposed NHS Commissioning Board will have regional offices. [27352]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Commissioning Board will be free to take decisions about how best to discharge its responsibilities. The shadow Board will be considering options during 2011-12 as it prepares to take on its full responsibilities from April 2012.

NHS Herefordshire

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each letter of advice provided by KPMG to NHS Herefordshire and its predecessor organisation on the value for money of the private finance initiative contract for Hereford County Hospital. [26943]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Podiatry: Training

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to put in place to ensure that adequate undergraduate training places for podiatrists are commissioned after the abolition of strategic health authorities; and who will be responsible for his commissioning process. [27159]

Anne Milton: There are no plans currently to change the national recruitment system for podiatrists.

The Department will publish a consultation on proposals for education and training, based on the principles in the White Paper.

The system should be driven by health care provider decisions underpinned by strong clinical leadership. It will be set within the context of delivering appropriate investment in work force education and training, while ensuring better outcomes for patients and value for money.

The system needs to provide for appropriate checks, balances and accountability. The arrangements for commissioning and delivery will be transparent and more efficient.

Primary Care Trusts: Strategic Health Authorities.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the statutory responsibilities are of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities. [27620]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Southport (Dr Pugh) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 580-81W.

Smoking: Deaths

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of early deaths from smoking-related diseases. [27040]

Anne Milton: Smoking is the biggest preventable cause of death in England, causing over 80,000 smoking-related deaths each year. Smoking rates have been in decline since the early 1970s. The Department will continue to take action to discourage young people from taking up smoking as well as encouraging those who smoke to quit. The Government set out their plans in the Public Health White Paper, which was laid before Parliament on 30 November.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime Prevention

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the coalition agreement, what further steps she plans to take to prevent crime and apprehend criminals. [13240]

Nick Herbert: On 13 July 2010, we announced the Home Office Structural Reform Plan which sets out the implementation of the reforms outlined in the coalition agreement. The Home Office Structural Reform Plan sets out top five departmental priorities for crime prevention and reduction. These priorities are:

enable the police and local communities to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour;

increase the accountability of the police to citizens;

secure our borders and control immigration;

protect people's freedoms and civil liberties; and

protect our citizens from terrorism.

We will continue to shape and refocus our approach to crime prevention and reduction as we build on the commitments in the Structural Reform Plan. Further detail on the policies currently under development will be included in a new crime strategy that will be published in due course.

Cybercrime

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 10 *(a)* countries and *(b)* organisations pose the greatest threat to cyber-security in the UK in order of the level of threat posed; and if she will make a statement. [25896]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* It would not be appropriate to provide detailed information about which organisations or countries are assessed as high cyber security risks to the UK. Such information could assist adversaries in identifying vulnerabilities and circumventing security controls, thereby exposing the UK to greater risk from attacks. The Security Service estimates that at least 20 foreign intelligence services are operating to some degree against UK interests. The low cost, global reach and largely anonymous nature of cyberspace makes it an attractive domain for use by people, organisations or states seeking to use it for malicious purposes. Perpetrators can include terrorist organisations, organised criminal groups, as well as those engaged in state-led espionage and warfare.

Demonstrations: Whitehall

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what reports she has received from the Metropolitan police service (MPS) on the estimated *(a)* cost of damage caused and *(b)* number of criminal offences committed in the course of the demonstration in London on 24 November 2010; how many arrests were made; how many people were stopped and searched in connection with the demonstration; what the cost to the MPS was of policing the demonstration; what the policy of the MPS is on recovering policing costs from organisers of demonstrations; what the cost of providing facilities to the demonstrators was; and if she will make a statement; [27268]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of providing *(a)* toilet facilities, *(b)* water and *(c)* related services to demonstrators in Whitehall on 24 November 2010; who was responsible for bearing these costs; and if she will make a statement. [27267]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The only information held by the Home Office relates to the number of arrests. The latest figure provided by the Metropolitan police service is that as of 26 November there have been 41 arrests.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been paid to officials in her Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year; [18780]

(2) what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in her Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18781]

Nick Herbert: Information on non-consolidated performance payments, used to help drive performance, can only be provided for the last five years. Information on allowances can only be provided for the last four years. The provision of accurate and consistent data before then is either not available, or could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The information is as follows:

Home Office HQ, UKBA, IPS and CRB

Table 1—Non-consolidated performance payments

Financial year	*Total value of payments (£)*	*Number of staff receiving payments*	*Total number of staff eligible to receive payment*[1]
2009-10	7,587,957	10,391	26,240
2008-09	6,634,422	10,244	23,029
2007-08	5,912,622	9,658	25,895
2006-07	5,692,142	8,882	25,802
2005-06	5,191,812	8,143	26,661

[1] Source—ONS

Source:

Internal databases

Table 2—Largest 20 non-consolidated performance payments

£

Payment	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
1	15,000	22,000	27,000	15,000	28,000
2	15,000	22,000	22,000	15,000	25,000
3	15,000	20,000	20,000	15,000	19,000
4	15,000	20,000	20,000	12,500	10,000
5	15,000	17,000	18,000	12,500	10,000
6	15,000	17,000	17,500	12,500	10,000
7	15,000	17,000	17,500	12,500	10,000
8	15,000	17,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
9	15,000	17,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
10	11,157	17,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
11	10,000	17,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
12	10,000	17,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
13	10,000	16,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
14	10,000	16,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
15	10,000	16,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
16	10,000	16,000	17,000	12,500	10,000
17	10,000	16,000	16,000	11,000	10,000
18	10,000	16,000	16,000	10,000	10,000
19	10,000	16,000	16,000	10,000	10,000

Table 2—Largest 20 non-consolidated performance payments

£

Payment	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
20	10,000	16,000	16,000	10,000	10,000

Source:
Internal databases

Table 3—Allowances in addition to salary

Financial year	*Allowances in addition to salary (£)*
2009-10	3,975,377
2008-09	4,576,130
2007-08	5,487,235
2006-07	5,877,310

Source:
Internal databases

Home Office NDPBs

Table 1—Non-consolidated performance payments

Financial year	*Total value of payments (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total number of staff eligible to receive payment*[1]
2009-10	884,523	883	5,777
2008-09	559,731	361	5,651
2007-08	405,243	422	5,010
2006-07	314,263	338	4,049
2005-06	78,405	140	190

[1] Source—ONS

Source:
Internal databases

Table 2—Largest 20 non-consolidated performance payments

£

Payment	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
1	10,000	10,000	25,000	20,000	16,793
2	10,000	10,000	15,000	17,000	16,350
3	7,500	10,000	15,000	17,000	12,500
4	6,000	10,000	13,978	17,000	10,000
5	5,960	6,500	12,000	17,000	10,000
6	5,000	6,500	12,000	11,000	10,000
7	3,000	6,500	8,706	10,000	10,000
8	3,000	3,750	8,000	9,026	10,000
9	3,000	3,282	8,000	9,026	10,000
10	3,000	3,183	8,000	9,026	10,000
11	2,500	3,070	7,156	8,500	10,000
12	2,121	3,000	5,322	8,495	10,000
13	1,881	2,802	5,000	8,495	10,000
14	1,500	2,763	5,000	8,495	10,000
15	1,500	2,732	5,000	8,495	10,000
16	1,500	2,500	5,000	8,000	10,000
17	1,000	2,430	5,000	6,000	10,000
18	1,000	1,978	5,000	6,000	10,000
19	1,000	1,976	5,000	6,000	10,000
20	1,000	1,737	5,000	6,000	8,250

Source:
Internal databases

Table 3—Allowances in addition to salary

Financial year	*Allowances in addition to salary (£)*
2009-10	1,018,864
2008-09	1,278,547
2007-08	1,716,457
2006-07	5,818,537

Source:
Internal databases

There are two separate sets of these three tables—one set for Home Office/UK Border Agency (UKBA) and agencies, and a second set for Home Office non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

Allowances comprise skills and recruitment and retention allowances.

The figures exclude locational allowances, and temporary payments, such as those paid to staff for fulfilling temporary duties. They also exclude expenses, for example the reimbursement of costs actually and necessarily incurred in the course of official business.

Since 1997 there have been a number of machinery of government (MoG) changes which have involved the creation and dissolution of agencies and NDPBs. The National Offender Management Service transferred under a MoG change to the Ministry of Justice's payroll in 2008, so is not included in the Home Office figures after that date. Two NDPBs have been created since April 2005: the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in April 2006, and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) in March 2008. The Home Office currently has nine agencies and NDPBs. Information provided by these bodies has been included in this answer.

For staff below senior civil service level, agencies and NDPBs except for UKBA, have pay delegation from the Home Office under which they are free to implement pay systems that meet their particular business needs.

Domestic Violence Protection Orders

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce her policy on the piloting of Domestic Violence Protection Orders. [24605]

Mrs May *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* On 25 November, I announced the intention to pilot domestic violence protection orders which will help domestic violence victims break the cycle of abuse. The orders are part of the cross-Government vision to tackle violence against women and girls and will be piloted in three police force areas—Greater Manchester, West Mercia and Wiltshire. They will commence in summer 2011 and will run for 12 months.

Drug Seizures

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seizures of illegal drugs there have been at ports in *(a)* Liverpool and *(b)* the North West in the last six years. [26977]

James Brokenshire: The information requested on drug seizures is not collected centrally.

The drug seizures collection held by the Home Office covers seizures by each police force and the UK Border Agency and cannot separately identify seizures made at ports.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by her Department; and what estimate she has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27508]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has one EU directive pending transposition into domestic legislation: Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. We are currently considering the most cost-effective ways of transposing this directive.

Human Trafficking

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of current initiatives to reduce the incidence of human trafficking. [26824]

Damian Green *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The effectiveness of the UK's approach to combat human trafficking forms part of the current discussions within the Home Office in order to publish a new strategy by spring 2011 on tackling this crime.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police forces receive to equip them to investigate cases of human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [26826]

Damian Green *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The sustainable and effective approach to combating human trafficking is through ensuring that it is part of core police business for every police force in the country.

In support of this work the UK Human Trafficking Centre in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency has in place a programme of work to:

embed basic training in human trafficking into mainstream training for student officers and police community support officers;

evaluate and mainstream the Senior Investigating Officers courses;

review and embed human trafficking training into the initial detective training courses; and

include human trafficking in domestic violence, public protection and roads policing programmes.

In addition to this, the UK Human Trafficking Centre provides tactical advice to all forces through its helpline.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to initiate a further Pentameter human trafficking investigation. [26827]

Damian Green *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* This is an operational matter for the police and Serious Organised Crime Agency, and will be determined by operational priorities.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the potential of Operation Newbridge in West Sussex to inform protocols for protecting children suspected of being trafficked in other areas. [26825]

Damian Green *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The Government are committed to safeguarding trafficked children. The experience of initiatives such as Operation Newbridge is being considered as part of the development of a new strategy on human trafficking, due to be launched in the new year. Part of the Government's intention is to capture good practice and use it to inform the new strategy.

Illegal Immigrants

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants who are in prison were convicted of offences related to a breach of immigration law. [27028]

Damian Green: The latest information published by the Ministry for Justice shows that on 30 September 2010, there were 11,062 foreign nationals in prison. This includes those held under the Immigration Act 1971 (including those in the removal centres of Dover, Haslar and Lindholme) as well as those held on remand or serving custodial sentences.

In order to confirm how many of those are in the UK illegally would require cross referencing individual records between the National Offender Management Service and the UK Border Agency, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

However, I can advise that a proportion of the foreign nationals in prison have a right to be in the UK either as an EEA national or through a form of leave such as indefinite leave to remain or having been granted asylum. The UK Border Agency will seek to revoke leave in order remove individuals who meet the criteria for deportation.

Additionally, the data held centrally on prisoners' offences are not sufficiently detailed to identify those serving sentences for breaches of immigration law.

Immigration

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-71, whether those refused *(a)* student, *(b)* marriage and *(c)* family visas will have the right of appeal under her immigration proposals. [27227]

Damian Green: Rights of appeal are not affected by the immigration proposals announced on 23 November 2010.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Travel

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department's Immigration and Nationality Directorate have used *(a)* first class rail travel and *(b)* air travel at fares other than the cheapest available in an official capacity in each of the last five years; how many used hotel accommodation in an official capacity in each such year; and what the cost to her Department was of expenditure in each category in each such year. [25597]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not currently held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Immigration Controls

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the merits of commissioning more frequent reviews by the Migration Advisory Committee of the proposed operation of the immigration cap. [27254]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) announced on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-186, that she will ask the Migration Advisory Committee to review the limit next year in order to set new arrangements for 2012-13.

Immigration Controls: Multinational Companies

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the likely effects on the levels of *(a)* growth, *(b)* output and *(c)* overseas direct investment of the restriction of intra-company transfers of more than 12 months to those in receipt of salaries of £40,000 per annum or more; [26937]

(2) what estimate she has made of the effects on the levels of *(a)* skills, *(b)* knowledge transfer and *(c)* overseas direct investment of the restriction of intra-company transfers of more than 12 months to those in receipt of salaries of £40,000 per annum or more; [26938]

(3) what estimate she has made of the likely effects on the levels of *(a)* growth, *(b)* output and *(c)* overseas direct investment of the annual cap on inward migration; [26939]

(4) what estimate she has made of the likely effects on the levels of *(a)* skills, *(b)* knowledge transfer and *(c)* overseas direct investment of the introduction of an annual cap on inward migration. [26940]

Damian Green: The Government will publish an impact assessment on the changes we are making to economic migration routes.

Immigration: Recruitment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that companies are not inhibited by the proposed annual immigration cap from recruiting talent or transferring their staff from abroad. [27244]

Damian Green: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) to the House on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-186, in particular the arrangements to give priority to the tier 2 route for skilled migrants with job offers, and the arrangements for intra-company transfers.

Intercept Modernisation Programme

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer from the Prime Minister of 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 310, on intercept modernisation, whether the Government plan to *(a)* establish a decentralised database to store communications data akin to that proposed to be collected under the intercept modernisation programme and *(b)* require internet service providers or other organisations to store additional communications data; and if she will make a statement. [21029]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* As made clear in the strategic defence and security review, the Government will preserve the ability of the law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data and intercept communications within the appropriate legal framework. Details of proposals including plans will be presented to Parliament in due course.

Law Enforcement Agencies

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the future of the security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies' ability to *(a)* obtain communication data and *(b)* intercept communications. [19425]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* As made clear in the strategic defence and security review, the Government will preserve the ability of the law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies to obtain communications data and to intercept communications within the appropriate legal framework. Details of proposals including plans for legislation will be presented to Parliament in due course.

Marriage of Convenience

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sham marriages have been identified in each of the last five years. [27251]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not hold records of the number of sham marriages identified

Civil registrars have a duty under section 24 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 to report to the UK Border Agency prospective marriages or civil partnerships which they have reasonable grounds for suspecting may be being contracted for the purposes of circumventing immigration control. The UK Border Agency does hold data on the number of section 24 reports of suspicious marriages made by civil registrars, although these are allegations and not proof of a sham marriage.

Section 24 reports do not cover marriages taking place in the Anglican Church in England and Wales, where the clergy are not under the same legal obligation, or those identified by UK Border Agency case workers.

The number of section 24 reports in the last five years is as follows:

	Number
2005	3,578
2006	452
2007	384
2008	344
2009	561

To the end of September, 665 reports have been received in 2010. This increase reflects the raised awareness among registrars of the work to tackle the problem rather than a rise in the number of sham marriages.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely effect of the implementation of her proposed requirement for marriage visa applications to demonstrate a minimum comprehension of English on the number of sham marriages. [27252]

Damian Green: No assessment has been made of the likely effect on sham marriages of the new English language requirement for spouses and partners.

The new English requirement for spouses and partners is intended to promote the economic well-being of the UK, for example by encouraging integration and protecting public services. While we would welcome any deterrent effect on abuse of the immigration system that may come from any tightening of the marriage rules; tackling sham marriages is not the objective of the new requirement.

Migration

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means her Department plans to end the link between temporary and permanent migration; and what timetable she has set for the implementation of her proposals to end that link. [27250]

Damian Green: I am considering this question, on which I shall consult in due course.

In the meantime I shall introduce an interim package of changes which will tighten the current settlement criteria. This will take effect from April 2011, with any necessary transitional measures.

There will be a new criminality threshold, requiring all applicants to be clear of unspent convictions when they apply for settlement.

Economic migrants applying for settlement will need to meet the salary criteria that applied when they last extended their permission to stay.

If an applicant fails to pass the minimum English language requirement, their application for settlement will be refused.

We will remove the ability for new entrants into the Intra Company Transfer route to extend their leave beyond five years.

Migration: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce her policy on migration post-study; and whether her Department has made an assessment of the merits of providing an exemption for the Fresh Talent programme in Scotland. [27253]

Damian Green: As the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) announced in her statement to Parliament of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-186, the Government will shortly launch a public consultation on proposed changes to the student visa arrangements. The consultation will seek views on the future of the Tier 1 Post Study Work category, the current scheme that allows international students who have achieved certain qualifications to stay in the UK and work for up to two years after they have completed their studies.

There has been no assessment of the merits of providing an exemption for the Fresh Talent Programme in Scotland. However, should any representations be made about this during the consultation, they will be considered in the light of other responses received.

Misuse of Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she plans to review the remit of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in formulating her Department's 2010 drugs strategy; [24841]

(2) what information her Department evaluated for benchmarking purposes on drugs policy in other countries during the consultation for her Department's 2010 drugs strategy; [24842]

(3) whether she plans to review the drugs classification system as part of the development of her Department's 2010 drugs strategy; [24844]

(4) whether the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs has made any recommendations for changes to the drugs classifications system as part of the 2010 drugs strategy. [25036]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 November 2010]*: The Government have no intention of reviewing the remit of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). The processes and function of the ACMD are currently being reviewed by Sir David Omand in line with Cabinet Office guidelines. The purpose of the review is to consider whether the ACMD is discharging its function that it was set up to deliver within the existing legislation. Sir David Omand's review is expected to conclude early in 2011.

The ACMD has provided successive governments with advice that has informed and shaped the UK's drug policy over the last four decades and continues to provide high quality, independent and expert advice that challenges Government in this complex area of public policy.

The Home Office has been working closely with other Government Departments to develop and publish a new drug strategy in December 2010. During the six-week drug strategy consultation period a number of responses were received from UK embassies and commissions overseas, details of which will be included in a short consultation summary document for publication in December 2010.

No formal assessment has been made of EU or wider international drugs policy in connection with the drafting of the new strategy, due to the inherent differences between the UK and other countries in terms of criminal justice systems, legislation and patterns of drug use. However we have drawn on the experiences of our EU and international contacts to develop the most appropriate response to UK drugs issues.

The Government also work closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) to supply information for the creation of the EMCDDA annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe. This report benchmarks European countries on a range of drug related indicators and is used to inform the ongoing development of UK drug policy.

The Government have no intention of reviewing the drug classification system established by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The criminal justice system expects—and the Government must provide—a stable and enduring system. It continues to serve this purpose.

The ACMD did not make any recommendations for changes to the drugs classification system and has published its response to the Drug Strategy Consultation (2010) on its website. It is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/acmd/

Muslim Brotherhood

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the activities of the London office of the Muslim Brotherhood; and if she will make a statement. [24583]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has received no recent representations on the activities of the London office of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent reports she has received on the activities of the London offices of the Muslim Brotherhood; and if she will make a statement. [26353]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not received any recent reports on the activities of the London offices of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Police Community Support Officers: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to continue to ring-fence the budget which funds police community support officers; and if she will make a statement. [27444]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* Details on specific grants, including the Neighbourhood Policing Fund which funds police community support officers, will be announced in early December when the provisional police settlements will be placed before the House of Commons.

Police Community Support Officers: Leicester

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are in *(a)* Leicestershire, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* Leicester West constituency. [27640]

Nick Herbert: Constituency level data are not collected centrally. However the latest available data are provided in the following table which shows police community support officer strength for Leicestershire by basic command unit, as at 31 March 2010.

Police community support officer strength by basic command unit, 31 March 2010[1]

		Full-time equivalents
Police force	*BCU*	*Police community support officers*
Leicestershire	Leicestershire City	98
	North Leicestershire	67
	South Leicestershire	59
	Central Services	9
Total		233

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Crime

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers in (i) the Metropolitan Police Service and (ii) Cambridgeshire Constabulary have been convicted of a criminal offence in each of the last three years. [26451]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The Home Office does not collect the information requested.

Police: Demonstrations

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report,* columns 814-5W, on police: demonstrations, what further information she has received on *(a)* the number of (i) arrests and (ii) prosecutions as a result of the demonstration, *(b)* the estimated cost of the damage caused by the demonstration and *(c)* the cost of policing the demonstration. [27380]

Nick Herbert: As of 26 November, 67 people have been arrested, the majority for offences of public order, aggravated trespass and criminal damage. The Home Office does not hold information on the number of prosecutions, the cost of the damage caused, or policing costs.

Police: Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* were employed on the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* she expects to be employed in May 2015. [26441]

Nick Herbert: The latest available data show that there were 143,734 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales as at 31 March 2010.

Decisions about the number of police officers are a matter for individual chief constables and their police authorities. The Government cannot provide an estimate of officer numbers in May 2015.

Police: Mental Illness

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 209W, on police: mental illness, whether her Department plans to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of its new learning resource entitled Mental Health and Learning Disability in improving the service provided by the police to people with mental health disorders after its publication. [27132]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* It is the intention of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to assess the effectiveness of the new learning resource through its evaluation strategy.

The evaluation strategy seeks to identify the achievement of the organisational benefits of existing Association of Chief Police Officers guidance about the approach the police service takes to people with mental ill health. The evaluation also considers the effectiveness of the implementation support plan developed alongside this resource, as well as the mental ill health learning resource itself.

Union of Good

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent representations she has received on the operation of Union of Good in the UK; [16200]

(2) what recent representations she has received on alleged financial and political links between Union of Good and *(a)* Interpal and *(b)* Islamic Relief Worldwide; [16201]

(3) what recent representations she has received on alleged financial and political links between Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades and *(a)* Union of Good, *(b)* Islamic National Bank and *(c)* al-Aqsa Television. [16202]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) has not received any recent representations regarding alleged financial and political links between:

> Union of Good and Interpal or Islamic Relief Worldwide; or
>
> between Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades and Union of Good, Islamic National Bank or al-Aqsa Television.

I can also confirm that the Home Secretary has not received any recent representations on the operation of Union of Good in the UK.

My noble Friend, the Minister of State for Security and Counter Terrorism (Baroness Neville-Jones) has received representations from Interpal and Union of Good which are being followed up.

Visas: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with universities in Scotland on proposed changes to student visa arrangements. [27255]

Damian Green: As the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) announced in her statement to Parliament of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-186, the Government will shortly launch a public consultation on proposed changes to the student visa arrangements. There have not yet been any formal discussions on the proposals with universities or other individual institutions in Scotland or elsewhere in the UK, but there will be opportunity for discussion during the consultation period.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on projects in Dartford constituency in each of the last 5 years. [27103]

Mr Vaizey: The information requested is not held by the Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts: Bristol City Council

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of reductions in local authority funding on arts organisations in the Bristol city council area. [27220]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area. The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Arts: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the level of awareness among the public of the availability to them of arts funding grants; and if he will make a statement. [26981]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has made no formal assessment of public awareness of available arts funding grants. However, there is a funding guide available on our website:

> http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/arts/3208.aspx

Arts Council England also publicise the funding routes on their website and recently published 'Achieving great art for everyone':

> http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/about-us/a-strategic-framework-for-the-arts/

Arts: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect on arts organisations based in the London borough of Hillingdon of local authority funding reductions. [26921]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area. The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Arts: Leeds City Council

Mr Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect on arts organisations based in Leeds City Council of local authority funding reductions. [27226]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area. The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Arts: London Borough of Redbridge

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect on arts organisations based in the London borough of Redbridge of local authority funding reductions. [27179]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area. The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Arts: Luton Borough Council

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the effects of reductions in funding for local authorities on arts organisations in Luton borough council area. [27128]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area. The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Arts: West Midlands

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment of the economic effects on the arts sector in the West Midlands of the proposed reduction in funding for organisations regularly funded by the Arts Council over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [26865]

Mr Vaizey: As part of the spending review, the Department will be reducing its own administrative budget by 50% and has asked a number of its arm's length bodies to do the same. At a difficult time our aim has been to ensure that the maximum amount of funding is spent at the front line, rather than on bureaucracy. We had regular discussions with those arm's length bodies during the spending review and those discussions continue. We are confident that in cutting administration in order to limit cuts to the front line, arts organisations across the country, including those in the West Midlands, will continue to thrive.

BBC

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria will be used to determine the shortlist for the appointment of the new Chairman of the BBC Trust; and if he will make a statement. [26979]

Mr Vaizey: All applications for the position of Chair of the BBC Trust will be considered against the following criteria:

excellent leadership skills, and ability to chair effectively at senior board level;

excellent representational skills, and past experience of independent decision-making and public discussion of decisions taken;

commitment to the independence and the objectives of the BBC—stated as the six Public Purposes in the Charter;

a commitment to effective financial stewardship and ability to ensure value for money is achieved;

understanding of the key challenges facing public service broadcasting and the wider media industry in the UK;

an understanding of the role of the BBC Trust and a commitment to continuous improvement in the governance of the BBC including its relationship with the Executive Board;

a commitment to accountability and representation of licence fee payers' interests, within the current Charter arrangements;

ability to lead strategy and decision making across the range of the Trust's responsibilities;

understanding of the BBC's impact on the commercial media sector;

excellent communication skills, and the ability to represent the Trust with confidence to Government, the media and a wide range of stakeholder groups, including viewers and listeners at public events;

commitment to equal opportunities and diversity.

Digital Economy Act 2010

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the impact of the judicial review of Ministerial decisions on the Digital Economy Act 2010. [26355]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: British Telecom and Talk Talk have been granted permission to proceed with a judicial review of the case against the online copyright infringement provisions of the Digital Economy Act 2010 (DEA).

The date for the hearing has not yet been confirmed by the court. In the meantime, work on implementing the DEA is continuing as planned and Ofcom will shortly be publishing the draft initial obligations code.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27499]

John Penrose: At present the Department does not have any EU directives pending transposition into domestic legislation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when his Department plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 16 September and *(b)* 20 October 2010 regarding a constituent, Mr Rowland. [27707]

John Penrose: There is no record of a letter dated 16 September ever being received by the Department. However a response to the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay's letter of 20 October was sent by email on 25 October. A copy of this response will be sent to him at the House by post for information.

Museums

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on his decision to end his Department's funding for non-national museums, including the People's History Museum. [26988]

Mr Vaizey: This Department is currently in discussions with all the non-national museums about this decision. The Department is not ending funding to its non-national museums; these have been allocated funding in the next spending period to 2014-15. The coalition are committed to improving transparency and efficiency by dispersing the power held by central Government and the Department believes that they will be more effectively sponsored away from central Government.

Music

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to reduce the *(a)* regulatory and *(b)* administrative burden on organisers of live music performances. [27235]

John Penrose: We are currently considering how to deliver the coalition commitment to cut red tape and encourage the performance of more live music, while ensuring that there is appropriate protection for local communities.

We will continue to have discussions with representatives from the music industry, the Local Government Association and others so that we can find the best possible solution.

Music: Licensing

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future of arrangements for music licences in respect of public performances. [26808]

John Penrose: We are currently considering how to deliver the coalition commitment to cut red tape and encourage the performance of more live music, while ensuring that there is appropriate protection for local communities.

We will continue to have discussions with representatives from the music industry, the Local Government Association and others so that we can find the best possible solution.

National Lottery: Arts

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much lottery funding for the arts was awarded in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* England in the last five years. [26980]

John Penrose: The amount of lottery funding awarded to the arts in the west midlands and England over the last five years can be found on the Department's searchable database at:

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk/Search.aspx

This database uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

Regional Development Agencies: North East

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 333W, on regional development agencies: North East region, what mechanisms he has put in place to ensure that the interests of the tourism industry are represented; and what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that assistance to businesses in the tourism sector is maintained during the transition from regional development agencies to local enterprise partnerships. [27125]

John Penrose: The Government will place a strong emphasis on leadership by local tourism interests, in particular, local tourism businesses, as set out in the White Paper, 'Local Growth: realising every place's potential', presented to Parliament on 28 October 2010.

Further details of the Government's position will be made available in a forthcoming tourism strategy paper, currently scheduled for release in early 2011.

VisitEngland have set up a transition team, working with the regional development agencies (RDAs) on maintaining tourism support.

Following the announcement of the first 24 Local Enterprise Partnerships, DCMS and VisitEngland have also begun work with the LEPs on transitional issues and on their individual tourism plans.

Royal Parks: Maintenance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the backlog of maintenance works in the Royal Parks. [26772]

John Penrose *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: The chief executive has operational responsibility for maintenance of the fabric of the Royal Parks (TRP). Following a review, in 2004, he advised the Secretary of State that the estimated backlog was £64.5 million, which was reduced to £51.2 million by 2008-09. In 2009 TRP undertook a new comprehensive review of the backlog, which added new items. The re-based figure is £56 million.

Sports: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his

Department is taking to increase adult participation in sport in the London Borough of Bexley. [27039]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England is the arm's length body with responsibility for community sport. Their aim is to increase and sustain levels of participation in sport and develop talent to drive standards of elite performance throughout the country. Their funding is distributed as part of the commitment to get one million more people playing more sport by 2012.

National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) are responsible for the strategy, delivering through their networks of community clubs, coaches and volunteers. Sport England is investing £480 million through 46 governing bodies over the next four years and has agreed 'grow', 'sustain' and 'excel' targets with each one. Each sport has developed a whole sport plan to achieve these targets.

In addition to the current funding being invested through NGBs, Sport England has invested a total of £3,114,049 into Bexley since 2006. This includes a recent investment of £1.24 million via the Sustainable Facilities Fund to the Europa Gymnastics Centre, the site which will be the new home of the Europa Gymnastics Club, which will also act as an Olympic and Paralympic training venue for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Commons: Size

6. **Yasmin Qureshi:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria he used to determine his policy on the future size of the House of Commons. [27061]

Mr Harper: Ultimately the size of the Commons is a matter of judgment. Ministers decided that a modest reduction to 600 seats would be appropriate, mindful that hon. Members must be able to serve their constituents. Around a third of existing constituencies are within the approximate range that will be required in future.

Digital Inclusion

7. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister to what extent consideration of digital inclusion will form part of his constitutional reform programme. [27062]

Mr Harper: Where any element of the constitutional reform programme involves use of online services—such as electoral registration—we will ensure that no one is excluded from democratic participation by being offline.

Electoral Register

9. **Graham Evans:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of the electoral register. [27074]

Mr Harper: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today.

Individual Voter Registration

10. **Mr Watts:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress has been made on speeding up the implementation of individual voter registration. [27075]

Mr Harper: On 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 883-885, I announced to the House that we plan to speed up the implementation of individual electoral registration so that it comes into force in 2014 as opposed to after the next general election as the previous Government proposed.

Lobbyists

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made on his plans to introduce a statutory register for lobbyists. [27063]

Mr Harper: The Government intend to run a broad consultation on the introduction of a statutory register of lobbyists in the coming months with a view to introducing legislation in the next Session.

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the ballots for the proposed referendum on the alternative vote and the elections to the Scottish Parliament in 2010 will be on separate ballot papers. [27693]

Mr Harper: The ballots for the proposed referendum on the voting system and the elections to the Scottish Parliament in 2011 will be on separate ballot papers.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to him for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Office of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available; [25983]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to him for ordinary written answer since May 2010 were answered within *(a)* seven days and *(b)* 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Office of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25984]

Mr Harper: This Session, in the period specified the Deputy Prime Minister has received 241 ordinary written questions. In respect of those questions 215 (89%) were answered within five sitting days; 26 (11%) were answered after five sitting days and none remain unanswered.

In the same period the Deputy Prime Minister received 54 named day questions. In respect of those questions 47 (87%) were answered on the specified date, six (13%) were answered after the specified date and one question remains unanswered.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The Cabinet Office does not hold data relating to the cost of parliamentary questions. However HM Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these average costs are increased in line with increases in underlying costs. The estimated costs that have applied from 20 January 2010 are:

Written question: £154

Oral question: £425

The disproportionate cost threshold (DCT), the level above which Departments can refuse to answer a written PQ is £800.

The Treasury, in making its assessment of the cost of answering questions, does not differentiate between the types of written questions.

Voting Systems

Sarah Newton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on the registration of voters with second homes. [27116]

Mr Harper: Since May, Ministers have had one meeting on the subject at the request of an MP. The Cabinet Office has also received correspondence on the subject. However, correspondence is not recorded in such a way that would enable us to readily identify the number of representations received on the specific issue of second home voters. To do so would incur disproportionate costs.

CABINET OFFICE

Corruption: EU Law

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 846W, on corruption: EU law, whether the Government maintains a record of those operators that have been convicted of the offence of bribery. [26804]

Mr Maude: The Government do not maintain a record of those operators that have been convicted of the offence of bribery. The Criminal Records Bureau maintains a record of all convictions given over the life of an individual. Disclosure Scotland maintains a record of individuals with unspent convictions. There is no equivalent centralised record for corporate convictions.

Electronic Government

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to provide that certain Government services are only available online; and what timetable he has set for such provision. [26278]

Mr Maude: The Government have set out a clear ambition that digital will increasingly be the primary channel for delivery of public information and transactional services. This is part of our overall plan to inject more choice, control and personalisation into public services.

Our aim is for Government services to be digital by default, making online the preferred channel for Government services. This marks a decisive move away from a neutral 'multi-channel' approach to one where we actively encourage people to switch to digital channels and put compelling incentives in place to support this, with digital technology driving better services and lower costs.

However, no one will be excluded from services because they cannot use or access the internet. Assisted digital support will be provided so that, although there is a strong expectation that those that are able to will use digital channels, those who cannot will always be able to access services.

A first wave of services have been announced which will move towards digital as their primary channel with timetables established for each service as follows:

On Student Finance for Higher Education in England, there will be an expectation from 2011 that initial applications by students are made online. Paper forms will no longer be printed or available to readily download from Directgov.

For jobseeker's allowance, Jobcentre Plus will introduce a strong expectation that new jobseekers allowance applicants should apply online—with the aim that 80% of claims will be made online by 2013.

For businesses, Companies House plan to mandate digital only filing of the vast majority of filing services including incorporation, accounts and annual returns by 2013, subject to a full impact assessment and the timely passage of the necessary secondary legislation.

HMRC are putting together a package of measures that will make it easier and quicker for businesses to deal with the tax authorities using online services as the norm. For example, from August 2012 the online channel will be the mandatory way to register for VAT, with other channels being closed or consolidated, and from 2013 it will become mandatory for business customers to tell us online when they start their business activity for the purposes of self-assessment and corporation tax.

Public Sector: Procurement

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department plans to reform procurement rules to facilitate the delivery of public services by *(a)* charities, *(b)* social enterprises, *(c)* small businesses and *(d)* other non-governmental bodies. [27301]

Mr Maude: The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 do not themselves prevent different supplier types from delivering public services. However, the Government are in the process of reforming Government procurement practices and procedures in a way that will facilitate the delivery of public services by a wide range of providers, including charities, social enterprises, small businesses, other non-governmental bodies, and by existing public servants independently of existing departmental structures.

On 1 November, I announced a package of measures to help small and medium-sized enterprises to obtain public sector contracts. They include halving the length and breadth of the pre-qualification process for small firms, and creating a single website called Contracts Finder, where businesses can locate all the contracts that are available from Government.

We are publishing a Green Paper shortly which will ask civil society organisations and commissioners how the commissioning process can be improved in order to increase the role of charities, social enterprise, mutuals and co-operatives in public service delivery. Feedback from this consultation will inform the wider Public Services Reform White Paper to be published early in the new year. Reforms to the procurement process will form part of this work.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns, 992-993W, on the access to work programme, when he expects to place in the Library a copy of the latest version of the Jobcentre Plus guidance referred to in her answer. [27622]

Maria Miller: I can confirm that the latest version of Access to Work guidance has been placed in the Library.

Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in each local authority in each English region likely to be affected by the introduction of the proposed upper limit on benefits entitlement. [25092]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

The Chancellor's announcement in the spending review of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the cap, we will publish an impact assessment.

Council Tax

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* new council tax benefit claims made to each local authority were dealt with within 25 days and *(b)* amended council tax benefit claims were dealt with within 10 days in the last 12 months; what the average cost to the public purse of each transaction was; and how much on average was paid out. [26983]

Steve Webb: The requested information on claims dealt with within 25 days, and change of circumstances dealt with within 10 days has been placed in the Library.

The average cost of each of these transactions is not available.

The average amount paid out for these transactions is not available.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25519]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not procure food directly, but has a contract for the provision of fully serviced accommodation which includes catering. The contract is with Telereal Trillium and their catering services supplier is Eurest (part of the Compass Group UK and Ireland).

The Department works with these suppliers, actively promoting Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs guidelines that food procured meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [25480]

Chris Grayling: The Department has taken steps to reduce the cost of receiving press cuttings over the last 12 months. We have now reduced our monthly spend by more than half and continue to look at ways to make further reductions.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Cost per month for DWP access to press cuttings service (excluding VAT):

	Cost (£)
2009	
November	21,656.68
December	17,211.97
2010	
January	15,543.40
February	18,747.85
March	22,713.40
April	17,771.14
May	16,211.79
June	17,834.22
July	15,992.68
August	7,649.03
September	7,130.45
October	10,681.51

NDPBs costs

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC)

Cost per month for CMEC access to press cuttings service (excluding VAT):

	Cost (£)
2009	
November	293.42
December	225.69
2010	
January	262.09

	Cost (£)
February	267.33
March	298.06
April	216.46
May	172.34
June	229.75
July	531.81
August	341.22
September	267.69
October	390.13

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)[1]

Cost per month for HSE access to press cuttings service (excluding VAT):

[1] The increase in costs for September 2010 was primarily due to an unusually busy period for health and safety news including the publication of the Lord Young Report.

	Cost (£)
2009	
November	2,490
December	2,215
2010	
January	2,489
February	2,580
March	2,838
April	2,717
May	2,101
June	1,720
July	1,729
August	3,265
September	6,141
October	[1]—

[1] Unavailable. *Note:* Figures rounded to the nearest pound.

National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) corporation

Cost per month for NEST access to press cuttings service (excluding VAT):

	Cost (£)
2009	
November	1,283
December	1,387
2010	
January	1,975
February	2,083
March	2,680
April	2,461
May	2,261
June	1,396
July	2,233
August	2,098
September	2,558

Note: Figures rounded to the nearest pound.

Pension Protection Fund (PPF)

Cost per month for PPF access to press cuttings service (excluding VAT):

	Cost (£)
2009	
November	1,298
December	1,246
2010	
January	977
February	1053
March	1,132
April	1,158
May	1,066
June	1,581
July	1,242
August	930
September	1,020
October	1,468

Note: Figures rounded to the nearest pound.

Remploy Ltd

Cost per month for Remploy access to press cuttings service (excluding VAT):

	Cost (£)
2009	
November	375
December	395
2010	
January	285
February	450
March	270
April	310
May	405
June	345
July	240
August	490
October	560

Note: Figures rounded to the nearest pound.

Disability Employment Advisory Committee (DEAC)

Nil costs.

Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board (DLAAC)

Nil costs.

Equality 2025

Nil costs.

Industrial Injuries Advisory Council IIAC)

Nil costs.

Pension Ombudsman/Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman (PO/PPFO)

Nil costs.

Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Nil costs.

The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS)

Nil costs.

The Pensions Regulator

Nil costs.

Disability Living Allowance

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there will be circumstances in which children in receipt of the mobility component of disability living allowance who are attending residential schools will lose their entitlement to the mobility component under his proposals for welfare reform. [25474]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 19 November 2010]*: Proposals for disability living allowance reform will be informed by responses to the consultation document which we will publish shortly.

We will be making clearer as we move towards the Bill exactly how the measure to cease paying mobility component of disability living allowance to people in care homes will affect particular groups.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people are claiming income-based employment and support allowance; and how many of those people cited a mental health condition as their primary reason for claiming; [24960]

(2) how many people are claiming income-based employment and support allowance in the support group; and how many of those people cited a mental health condition as their primary reason for claiming; [24961]

(3) how many people are claiming income-based employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group; and how many of those cited a mental health condition as their primary reason for claiming. [24962]

Maria Miller: The information is provided in the following table.

The table firstly shows the full ESA caseload and those in the Work Related and Support Group respectively and then provides the same breakdown for those who have an income-based element to their case.

The table then provides the same breakdowns but for those who fall into the mental and behavioural category.

Great Britain

	Number
All ESA claimants	
All stages	527,120
Work Related Group	109,270
Support Group	39,110
ESA claimants with an income based element	
All stages	272,330
Work Related Group	59,940
Support Group	25,560
Mental and behavioural category	
All stages	205,700
Work Related Group	43,410
Support Group	12,170
Mental and behavioural category for ESA claimants with an income based element	
All stages	125,910
Work Related Group	28,630
Support Group	10,500

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. ESA statistics by medical condition can be found at:
http://83.244.183.180/ESA/esa_additional_feb10.xls
3. Benefit type: The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the caseload date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
4. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008
5. Stage of ESA claim: The stage of claim is derived from the amount of payment a claimant receives. There are a number of cases where the stage is unknown, these are claimants which do not receive any payment for ESA (those who receive national insurance credits only).
6. ICD (disease) code Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim, this in itself does not confer entitlement to employment support allowance and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. For ESA claimants, data on medical condition are only available from February 2010 onwards.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made on reviewing the work capability assessment for employment and support allowance. [25430]

Chris Grayling: The Welfare Reform Act 2007 commits the Government to commissioning an independent review of the work capability assessment (WCA) annually for the first five years of its operation.

Professor Malcolm Harrington reviewed the fairness and effectiveness of the assessment. His review, published on 23 November, found that the WCA is the right process, but that improvements could be made. The review set out a substantial series of recommendations which the Government fully accepted on the same day. As a result we will:

Improve the capability and confidence of Decision Makers in Jobcentre Plus;

Put in place 'champions' with additional expertise in mental, cognitive and intellectual conditions in each Atos Medical Examination Centre; and

Make the WCA a more compassionate process.

In addition to the independent reviews, the Department also carried out a Department-led review which was published in March 2010. This review consulted closely with medical and other experts and disability organisations and made a series of recommendations for improving the WCA. We intend to introduce these changes in spring 2011, ahead of the reassessment of incapacity benefits claimants.

Housing Benefit

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of proposed changes to council tax benefit; and what the average amount is by which the income of affected households will be reduced as a result of that measure; [21912]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of his proposal to cap local housing allowance rates; and what the average amount is by which the income of affected households will be reduced as a result of that measure; [21916]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of uprating the local housing allowance rates with reference to the consumer prices index from 2013-14; and what the average amount is by which the income of those households will be reduced as a result of that measure; [21920]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of setting reduced local housing allowance rates at the 30th percentile of local rents; and what the average amount is by which the income of affected households will be reduced as a result of that measure; [21921]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of removing the five-bedroom local housing allowance rate; and what the average amount is by which the income of affected households will be reduced as a result of that measure. [21922]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" and a separate equality impact assessment on the 23 July. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

The Department will publish full impact assessments for the proposed measures, in the normal way, when it lays the relevant legislation.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation he undertook with representative organisations in developing his proposals for changes to housing benefit. [22127]

Steve Webb: The Department has consulted with organisations representing local authorities, in accordance with its statutory responsibility, before making regulations in respect of changes to housing benefit.

In addition, Ministers and officials in DWP have met representatives from a wide range of organisations with an interest in housing benefit to discuss the reforms.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the monetary value of non-dependent deductions in housing benefit *(a)* prior to the June 2010 Budget and *(b)* in each year of the current Parliament. [24774]

Steve Webb: The amount of the deduction applied to awards of housing benefit in respect of non- dependants depends upon the circumstances of the non-dependant, such as their gross earnings. The current weekly values of the non-dependant deduction rates in housing benefit are as follows:

Earnings band	*Non-dependant deduction rate (£)*
>=£382	47.75
£306 to £381.99	43.50
£231 to £305.99	38.20
£178 to £230.99	23.35
£120 to £177.99	17.00
<£120	7.40
Others[1]	7.40

[1] Others:
Age 25 or over and on income support/jobseeker's allowance (income-based)
Age 18 or over and not in remunerative work
In receipt of main phase employment and support allowance (income-related).

The non-dependant deduction rates that will apply from 2011-12 and future years have not yet been announced. The increased rates from 2011-12 will be included in the statement on uprating to be given to Parliament shortly and confirmed by way of legislation in the annual benefit uprating order. Implementation will be part of the Department's and local authorities' annual uprating exercises.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* new housing benefit claims made to each local authority were dealt with within 25 days and *(b)* changed housing benefit claims were dealt with within 10 days in the last 12 months; what the average cost to the public purse of each transaction was; and how much on average was paid out. [26982]

Steve Webb: The requested information on claims dealt with within 25 days, and change of circumstances dealt with within 10 days has been placed in the Library.

The average cost of each of these transactions is not available.

The average amount paid out for these transactions is not available.

Housing Benefit: Further Education

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of changing eligibility for housing benefit to include individuals undertaking full-time further education courses. [20496]

Steve Webb: Financial support for students comes from the education system. Housing benefit is not normally available to people who are undertaking a course of full-time education. There are some exceptions, which include people with disabilities and lone parents with dependent children. Young people under age 21 may also get housing benefit if they are undertaking a course of non-advanced or further education which they commenced before the age of 19. We have no plans to change those rules.

Housing Benefit: Private Rented Housing

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider the merits of amending rules governing the payment of local housing allowance to ensure that it is paid directly to private landlords. [25898]

Steve Webb: Although housing benefit is normally paid to the tenant under the local housing allowance arrangements, there are safeguards in place for tenants who are unable or unlikely to manage their rental payments.

We are conducting a review of the first two years' operation of the local housing allowance to monitor its impact at a national level within the limitations of the available administration data and research. The review aims to cover a range of issues that are likely to be of interest to landlords, including direct payment to tenants and the operation of the safeguards for tenants who are unable or unlikely to manage their rental payments. An in-depth focus group study of landlords concerning their attitudes to, and experiences of, the local housing allowance scheme will be included. The review is due to report in the later in the year. However, we have no plans to return to a system where tenants can simply choose to have their benefit paid to the landlord.

Housing Benefit: Vulnerable Adults

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 553W, on housing benefit: vulnerable adults, what practical support for local authorities and welfare advisers he plans to provide to ensure that a comprehensive and consistent communication strategy is developed for people in receipt of housing benefit who may face a reduction in entitlement. [27675]

Steve Webb: The Government have in place a comprehensive programme of support including the provision of new guidance, best practice on discretionary housing payments as well as printed and electronic communications products. The Department for Work and Pensions will continue to provide an e-mail and telephone support service for local authorities and other stakeholders.

Housing Benefit: Womens Aid

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on local authority funding of women's aid projects of changes to housing benefit. [26884]

Steve Webb *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* Most of the proposed changes to housing benefit affect people in the private rented sector whose housing benefit is assessed under the local housing allowance. Housing benefit for those who live in hostels and in supported accommodation within the social and voluntary sector is not normally assessed under local housing allowance rules and is unlikely to be affected by these changes.

Other changes to housing benefit that impact on both the private and social rented sectors such as increases to non-dependant deductions and restricting benefit where occupants are living in accommodation that is larger than they need are also unlikely to affect people in women's aid projects. The change that may have an effect is the 10% reduction in housing benefit where a person has been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over twelve months. This change takes affect from April 2013. We shall publish an impact assessment on the proposed measure to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Housing: Rent

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the availability of housing in each London borough with *(a)* four bedrooms which can be rented at a cost at or below the proposed £400 per week housing benefit cap, *(b)* three bedrooms which can be rented at a cost at or below the proposed £340 per week housing benefit cap and *(c)* two bedrooms which can be rented at a cost at or below the proposed £290 per week benefit cap. [26471]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12" on 23 July, which includes breakdowns at the local authority level and an assessment of the impact on availability of accommodation. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against decisions to disallow incapacity benefit there have been in each year since it was introduced in 1995; and how many were decided in favour of the appellant. [25596]

Maria Miller: The information requested is not available, and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Invalid Vehicles

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will have their entitlement to a motability car withdrawn in the 2010-11 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [25163]

Maria Miller: Eligibility to the Motability scheme is dependent on a person being paid the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance (DLA). Motability vehicles may be withdrawn where a person ceases to be entitled to the higher rate mobility component of DLA either because they cease to satisfy the conditions of entitlement for that component or the eligible person dies. No estimate has been made of the number of such people in the current financial year.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to take steps to assist those claiming support for mortgage interest whose mortgage interest rate is substantially higher than the standard interest rate used to calculate support payments. [19021]

Steve Webb: One of the reasons for the introduction of the standard interest rate in 1995 was that the actual interest rates met under the previous system were sometimes excessive. The policy intention is not that support for mortgage interest should meet high interest rates. It is important that only reasonable costs are met, in order to protect the taxpayer.

When the amount provided through benefit is less than the lender's rate charged on the loan, the responsibility lies with the claimant, working together with the lender, to meet any shortfall in payments.

The Government will continue to explore with mortgage lenders the scope for them to "freeze" benefit claimants' mortgage accounts and apply a standard interest rate for a fixed period. In the meantime, the Government will continue to work closely with lenders and debt advice agencies to ensure that repossession is only ever a last resort, and expects to see lenders continuing to offer support and forbearance to their customers who are struggling with their mortgage.

MRI Scans

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to implement the provisions of EU Directive 2004/40/EC as amended; and whether the directive will affect the use of MRI scans before neurological operations such as microvascular decompression for the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia. [25518]

Chris Grayling: The implementation of Directive 2004/40/EC has been delayed for precisely this issue. A legislative proposal to amend the directive is expected from the European Commission shortly and the Government will seek to ensure the revised directive does not adversely affect the use of MRI scans.

Pensions: Consumer Price Index

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology he used to determine his policy on the use of the consumer prices index as a measure of inflation in respect of pensions. [27685]

Steve Webb: The decision to use the consumer prices index (CPI) as the measure of inflation for indexation of benefits and pensions was taken in light of relevant factors, including the profile of price inflation indices and their features, and taken within the wider fiscal context.

An example of a feature which led us to decide that the CPI was a better reflection of pensioners' inflationary experience was the fact that the retail prices index includes mortgage interest payments. Mortgage interest payments are not relevant to the majority of pensioners, of whom only 7% have a mortgage.

Social Security Benefits

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the £2.1 billion funding for the implementation of universal credit will be allocated to IT development. [25158]

Chris Grayling: Plans for the implementation of universal credit are still in development and details will be set out in due course.

Social Security Benefits: Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether households in social housing where rents are set at 80% of market rents will be affected by the proposed upper limit on benefits entitlement. [25094]

Steve Webb: The current assumption is that the upper limit on benefit entitlement will apply to all housing benefit recipients, including those in the social sector whose rents have been set at 80% of market rents. However, those households who receive disability living allowance and working tax credit will not be subject to the overall limit.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of total state pension payments of *(a)* less than £50, *(b)* less than £100, *(c)* less than £150, *(d)* less than £200 and *(e)* more than £200 per week. [25669]

Steve Webb: The information is in the following table.

Number of state pension recipients by total weekly payment

	All payments	*Less than £50*	*Less than £100*	*Less than £150*	*Less than £200*	*£200 and over*
All	12,540,750	1,075,020	5,002,030	10,980,420	12,258,690	282,060
GB	11,380,370	300,780	3,985,670	9,851,560	11,104,360	276,010
Overseas	1,160,380	774,240	1,016,360	1,128,850	1,154,330	6,050

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Total weekly payment includes:
(i) basic State Pension, net additional pension (SERPS and State Second Pension) and Graduated Retirement Benefit;
(ii) age addition and dependency increases; and
(iii) increments.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, as at May 2010

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 1 December 2010

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure his Department incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27524]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not able to provide details of expenditure which may have been incurred on sponsorship without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the needs of disabled people informed the ministerial review of his Department's Education Strategy 2010-15; and what steps his Department plans to take to ensure such needs inform any further such review. [27555]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) published its Learning for All Education Strategy in March 2010. The strategy recognised that disability is a major factor in excluding children from school and the importance of reaching those currently marginalised if the education millennium development goals and Education for All goals are to be achieved.

DFID recently published a guidance note on supporting access to education for children with disabilities, "Education for Children with Disabilities—Improving Access and Quality", which is available on the DFID website. This note has been used by country teams during the bilateral aid review, which will inform our ongoing policy, including that on education for children with disabilities.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's programmes in reducing the global incidence of HIV/AIDS; what plans he has for the future of such programmes; and if he will make a statement. [27747]

Mr O'Brien: Figures from the UNAIDS Report on The Global Aids Epidemic 2010 demonstrate steady progress in the reduction of HIV incidence. In 33 countries, of which 22 are in Sub-Saharan Africa, HIV incidence has fallen by more than 25% between 2001 and 2009. In the countries most severely effected by the epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa—Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe—incidence have either stabilised or are showing signs of decline. These are all countries where the Department for International Development (DFID) has supported national HIV prevention programmes.

DFID is reviewing all its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to ensure UK aid is effective, represents value for money for the UK taxpayer and accelerates progress towards the millennium development goals. As set out in DFID's business plan 2011-15, we will specify our objectives on restricting the spread of diseases like TB, HIV, and malaria by May 2011.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27507]

Mr O'Brien: There are currently no EU directives waiting to be transposed into domestic legislation by the Department.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27360]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent no money on entertainment relating to the activities of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Trade Unions: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has given to trade unions in the UK and overseas through *(a)* the Civil Society Challenge Fund, *(b)* the UK Trades Union Congress Strategic Grant Agreement, *(c)* the Strategic Framework Partnership Agreement, *(d)* the partnership programme agreements, *(e)* the Development Awareness Fund and *(f)* other programmes in each of the last three years; which trade unions received such funds; and for what reason the award was made in each case. [27381]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I will arrange for the requested information to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is reviewing all of its aid programmes, including aid channelled through trade unions, to ensure that it makes a real difference to the world's poorest people.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Order

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many grants of widow's or widower's bereavement allowances were made under the Agricultural Wages Order in each of the last five financial years; [27417]

(2) what the average sum payable as a grant of widow's or widower's bereavement allowance under the Agricultural Wages Order was in each of the last five financial years. [27418]

Mr Paice: The Agricultural Wages Order provides agricultural workers with an entitlement to paid bereavement leave on the death of a close relative, including a spouse or civil partner. However, it does not include provision for the payment of a lump sum grant in addition to this.

The Government do not keep records of the amount of bereavement leave taken by agricultural workers. Therefore, it is not possible to provide details of the average amount of bereavement leave pay received in each of the past five years.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many grants of dog allowances were made under the Agricultural Wages Order in each of the last five financial years; [27419]

(2) what the average sum payable as a grant of dog allowances under the Agricultural Wages Order was in each of the last five financial years. [27421]

Mr Paice: The dog allowance is a weekly amount added to the minimum rate for a worker whose employer requires them to keep a dog or dogs. The allowance is paid in respect of each dog.

The Government does not have information on the number of allowances paid to workers required to keep a dog or dogs for the better performance of their work. Nor is it possible to state what the average sum payable to such workers was in each of the last five financial years.

The level of the weekly dog allowance payable to a worker required to keep a dog or dogs in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£
2010	7.21
2009	7.01
2008	6.86
2007	6.58
2006	6.30

Note:
All allowances are effective from 1 October of the relevant year.

Biofuels

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much wood was imported for burning as biomass fuel in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [27552]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

Information collated by HM Revenue and Customs as part of its statistics on overseas trade do not indicate the final use for imported wood.

The 2010 edition of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics contains estimates of the total quantities of wood and waste wood that were used for energy purposes during 2007, 2008 and 2009. Copies of this publication are available in the House Library. The publication shows the following information:

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Wood for energy purposes	332	359	375
Waste wood for energy purposes	101	162	165

Additionally, the publication contains the following estimates of straw, short rotation coppice, and other plant based biomass imported for energy purposes:

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Total imports of straw, short rotation coppice and other plant-based biomass for energy purposes	378	416	415

British Waterways

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the future of British Waterways. [25906]

Richard Benyon: On 14 October, the Government announced that British Waterways will move from being a public corporation to a charitable body within civil society from April 2012. Government's intention is to issue a full public consultation on the scope and model of the new waterways charity early in 2011. Key stakeholders will continue to be kept closely involved through ongoing discussions, workshops and meetings with myself and DEFRA officials.

Carbon Emissions: Businesses

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to introduce mandatory reporting of carbon emissions by UK-listed companies. [27113]

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the introduction of mandatory carbon reporting for businesses under section 85 of the Climate Change Act 2008. [26349]

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of introducing mandatory reporting of carbon dioxide emissions by listed UK companies; and if she will make a statement. [27200]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member and my hon. Friends to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Common Agricultural Policy

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effect on UK food security of the operation of the Common Agricultural Policy. [20736]

Mr Paice: The best guarantors of UK food security, as detailed in DEFRA's UK food security assessment, are an open trading system with other countries, and farmers at home and overseas being able to respond to market price signals. We believe that there needs to be reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to facilitate this.

Departmental Policy

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what departmental policy reviews her Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate she has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21883]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Ofwat review	*Waste review*	*Animal Welfare Act*	*Animal welfare inspections*	*Task force on farm regulation*	*Review of national park governance arrangements*
Announcement date	26 August 2010	15 June 2010	June 2010 (reconfirmed earlier decision taken by previous Administration)	1 May 2010	9 June 2010	A full public consultation was launched on 9 November 2010
Publication date	Spring/summer 2011	May 2011	Command Paper to publish in December 2010. EFRA Parliamentary Select Committee to consider its findings.	1 May 2011	April 2011	A Ministerial announcement on the consultation outcome, proposals for changes to the governance arrangements and ways of improving accountability will be made by the end of March 2011.
Estimated cost	£55,000 not including staff costs	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties	£35,000 (not including staff costs)	Undertaken by civil servants in the course of normal duties
Appointed reviewer and remuneration	David Gray. £50,000 plus expenses.	n/a	n/a	n/a	Richard Macdonald. Daily rate £300 and entitled to reasonable expenses. Estimated input 80 days.	n/a
Number of civil servants working on the review	2.2 full-time employees	4 full-time employees	5 full-time employees	4.6 full-time employees	6 full-time employees	2 civil servants but with significant input from the national park authorities.
Number of secondees working on the review	None	1 part time (2 days per week)	None	None	None	None

	Ofwat review	*Waste review*	*Animal Welfare Act*	*Animal welfare inspections*	*Task force on farm regulation*	*Review of national park governance arrangements*
Secondees home organisation	n/a	Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Secondees pay rates	n/a	On loan from WRAP	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Farming Futures: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding Farming Futures received from her Department in each of the last four years; and how much funding she plans to allocate to Farming Futures in each of the next four years. [27031]

Mr Paice: Farming Futures was set up in 2007 to build greater awareness and provide advice to farmers on the impacts of climate change and actions they can take to deal with this, to increase efficiency, profitability and competiveness. DEFRA has provided Farming Futures with core funding of over £850,000 covering a four year period:

	£
2007-08	171,000
2008-09	250,000
2009-10	150,000
2010-11	285,000

DEFRA funding for Farming Futures was a substantial, time-limited contribution to allow them to establish themselves in playing a central role in supporting the industry's action on climate change, whilst they sought alternative long-term funding. After four years, DEFRA's financial support will come to an end in March 2011.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the opinion of the Council of Ministers on the proposal to amend the GMO Deliberate Release Directive 2001/18 by introducing a new article 26b has been received by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [26331]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* All member states have received the opinion of the Council Legal Service on the proposal to amend Directive 2001/18. Opinions on this matter are also expected to be made available soon from both the European Parliament and the Commission legal services. Following this, further discussions will be held at EU level on the legal implications of the Commission's proposal.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the commercial growing of genetically-modified crops; and if she will make a statement. [26878]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The details of the Government's policy on GM crops are currently under consideration, but all policies will be based on robust scientific evidence.

National Parks

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what visits on what dates for what purposes *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have made to (i) national parks and (ii) national nature reserves since 11 May 2010. [26156]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 24 November 2010]:* I have expressed a keen interest in visiting all of the English national parks to see at first hand the valuable work being undertaken. So far I have been to Northumberland national park on 15 June and the Peak District national park on 27 July.

During my visit to Northumberland national park I also went to Greenlee Lough national nature reserve to see how national park and national nature reserve designations can work together.

Other national nature reserves I visited are Holme Fen and Woodwalton Fen on 10 November as part of the Great Fen project which is designed to link up the land between the two nature reserves.

I was also able to see Leigh Woods national nature reserve from the Avon Gorge site of special scientific interest which I visited on 19 July.

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice) visited Dartmoor national park on 11 November to discuss uplands issues.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs the noble Lord, Lord Henley visited the Lake District national park on 25 August regarding future changes needed to adapt to climate change.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) has met with key representatives from the English national parks authority association and spoken with a number of people who have an interest in national parks and national nature reserves. We are currently putting together a programme of visits for 2011, which includes visits to our national parks.

Salmon: Rivers

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether her Department has made an estimate of the number of salmon returning to the river *(a)* Test, *(b)* Itchen and *(c)* Hampshire Avon in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement; [26235]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the future capacity of the river *(a)* Test, *(b)* Itchen and *(c)* Hampshire Avon to support viable stocks of migratory salmonoids; and if she will make a statement. [26236]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency (EA) operates fish counters on the rivers Test, Itchen and Hampshire Avon and uses these to derive annual estimates of the number of salmon returning to each of these rivers. The following table shows the estimated number of salmon returning in each of the past five years, although such estimates have only been possible on the Hampshire Avon since 2006.

	Test	*Itchen*	*Hampshire Avon*
2005	1,117	411	n/a
2006	1,058	419	1,319
2007	664	301	1,135
2008	1,487	500	810
2009 (provisional)	903	276	743

The EA estimates the Conservation Limits (CLs) for salmon stocks in each of the 64 principal salmon rivers in England and Wales; including the Test, Itchen and Hampshire Avon. CLs are described as 'the minimum desirable spawning stock levels, below which stocks should not be allowed to fall'. The salmon stocks in the rivers Test, Itchen and Hampshire Avon were all below their CLs in 2009, and are classified as being 'At Risk' or 'Probably at Risk'. They are also expected to remain in one of these categories until at least 2014. There are no similar indicators of the status of other salmonid species.

Stocks may still be sustainable at levels below their CL, but they are at greater risk. The EA and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science are investigating the significance of impacts on salmon and will seek ways to manage the effects. An understanding of these key factors will be important in estimating the future potential of these southern chalk streams for all salmonid species.

Woodland Grant Scheme

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the Woodland Grant Scheme following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review; and if she will make a statement. [21955]

Mr Paice: Expenditure on the Rural Development programme for England will be maintained over the spending review period. We will work with the Forestry Commission to ensure the England Woodland Grant Scheme, which provides for the stewardship of existing woodlands and the creation of new woodlands, is more effective and better targeted. I also refer the hon. Gentleman to the Welsh Assembly Government which administers woodland grant schemes in Wales for information on its plans.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made on the inclusion of a proportion of electricity generated from energy from waste in the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [27286]

Gregory Barker: All electricity supply arrangements to a CRC participant which meet the CRC's supply criteria must be reported under the scheme, irrespective of how, where and by whom the electricity is generated. This ensures the scheme's focus is on energy efficiency measures.

CRC participants which operate an energy from waste plant will also need to report their input fuel to the generational process, where that waste supply meets the CRC supply definitions.

Departmental Contracts

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to encourage and support small and medium-sized enterprises and third sector organisations to compete for departmental contracts in line with value-for-money policy, UK regulations and EU procurement directives. [28114]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is following all the requirements of the Transparency Agenda and openly advertising all procurements above £10,000.

In circumstances where an applicant is unsuccessful with their bid the Department provides full feedback to all companies as requested.

Energy: Prices

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to assist energy-intensive industries with rising energy prices. [27120]

Charles Hendry: In order to help UK energy intensive industries, DECC is working closely with BIS, industry representatives, academics and other experts on an Energy Intensive Industry Strategy. The Strategy is assessing the impact of climate change and energy policies on the cost of energy for these industries, greenhouse gas abatement opportunities within key energy intensive sectors and is considering policy options where further cost-effective abatement opportunities are not available in the short term.

The Government also provide businesses with enhanced tax relief for investments in equipment that meets published energy-saving criteria via enhanced capital allowances.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to seek additional data-sharing powers to enable people with a terminal illness automatically to receive assistance from the mandatory social price support scheme. [27741]

Gregory Barker: Energy suppliers will be required from April 2011 to provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households—with total support of £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million in 2014-15.

We anticipate that data matching methods, similar to those which were used successfully in the Energy Rebate Scheme, will be used to target the available assistance towards more of the most vulnerable households.

We intend to consult on the detailed policy design, including eligibility and targeting methods, shortly and would welcome views and input on these issues during that process.

Natural Gas

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the level of reserves of shale gas in the UK. [27752]

Charles Hendry: The British Geological Survey estimates that there could be worthwhile shale gas resources in the UK. However it is not possible to make an estimate of reserves without drilling and production testing, and it is not yet clear that the success elsewhere can be replicated in the UK.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce: Expenditure

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 81-2W, on ethnic minorities, who the speakers were at each of the 16 events. [27469]

Lynne Featherstone: A total of 16 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Women Councillors' Taskforce events were held across Britain. The speakers at each of the events were as follows:

Tower Hamlet—23 July 2008:

Councillors: Dr Anwara AN, Shirley Marshall and Lurline Champagnie; Barbara Follett MP and Deputy Minister for Women; former Councillor Neelam Bakshi.

Birmingham—17 October 2008:

Councillors: Salma Yaqoob, Karen Hamilton and Paulette Hamilton; Francine Fernandes; Carol Coombes CEO.

Harrow—21 November 2008:

Councillors: Lurline Champagnie, Mimi Harker, Nana Asante and David Ashton.

Swansea—12 December 2008:

Former Councillor Yvonne Jardine; Nia Griffith MP; Salma Abbasi; Mari Rees.

Islington—9 January 2009:

Councillors: James Kempton, Jyoti Vaja, Anjana Patel, Ruth Polling, Berenice Vanier; Mouna Hamitouche.

TUC event central London—3 February 2009:

Sarah Veale; Dinah Cox; Councillors: Anwara Ali and Lurline Champagnie.

Glasgow—13 February 2009:

Former Councillor Neelam Bakshi; Angela O'Hagan; Councillor Paulette Hamilton; Loretta Mordi; Ann Henderson.

Gloucester—19 February 2009:

Former Councillor Carol Francis; Councillors: Barry Dare, Lorna Campbell and Lady Mavis Dunrossil; Parmjit Dhanda MP.

Newcastle—20 March 2009:

Former Councillor Thea Khamis; Councillors: David Faulkner and Lurline Champagnie; Baroness Sandip Verma; Ranjana Bell.

Leicester—17 April 2009:

Councillors: Manjula Sood, Ross Willmott, Sarah Russell and Ramilla Shah; Sheila Lock CEO; Liz Reid-Jones; Anita Patel.

Camden—24 April 2009:

Councillors: Maya de Souza, Keith Moffitt and Geethika Jayatilaka; Dame Jane Roberts; Simon Woolley.

South London—21 May 2009:

Councillors: Lorna Campbell; Nicholas Stanton, Eliza Mann, Mimi Harker and Dora Dixon Fyle; Dawn Butler MP; Harriet Harman QC, MP and Minister for Women and Equalities.

Liverpool—29 May 2009:

Former Councillor Mia Jones; Councillors: Warren Bradley and Anna Rothery; Amina Ismail; Maria Eagle MP and Deputy Minister for Women and Equalities.

Chilterns, Maidenhead and Berkshire—26 June 2009:

Councillors: Mimi Harker, Humaira Khan, John Warder, Meral Ece, Denise Headley.

Luton—17 July 2009:

Councillors: Sherma Batson, Joan Bailey, Jacqui Burnett and Anjana Patel; Dr Nazia Khanum; Kate Belinis CEO.

Bradford—22 July 2009:

Adeeba Malik; Councillors: Dale Smith, Naveeda Ikram and Alison Lowe; Marcia Churley.

Note:

This information is in the public domain through the BAME Women Councillors' Taskforce report. The full report is available at the following link:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/
Task%20Force%20Report%20Oct%202009.pdf

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 81-82W, on ethnic minorities, how the *(a)* attendees and *(b)* delegates at each event were (i) invited and (ii) selected for invitation. [27471]

Lynne Featherstone: A total of 16 events were held across Britain reaching nearly 1,100 women. These events were promoted using a wide range of organisations. This included working closely with existing local equalities group networks and political parties.

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) sent e-mails including the event details and also telephoned organisations who helped to promote the events on behalf of the GEO. These organisations included local women's organisations, equalities organisations, local authorities, local political parties, strategic partners, local Libraries and business networks.

Attendees signed up to attend the events online. The selection of attendees was based on a first come first served basis where the numbers were dependent on the size of the venue.

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 81-82W, on ethnic minorities, what steps she plans to take to evaluate the *(a)* outcome and *(b)* value for money of each event. [27473]

Lynne Featherstone: Action has been taken to evaluate the work of the Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) Women Councillors' taskforce and an evaluation report will be published in the new year, with an executive summary. The report will assess the short- and longer-term impacts of the taskforce as a whole, and by each of the three strands of work covering the support and development element of the programme, which are the outreach events, the shadowing and mentoring scheme and the community leadership course.

The specific research objectives are:

1. To identify and examine the outcomes and effectiveness of the BAME taskforce

2. To identify the strengths and limitations of the BAME taskforce programme of work

3. To assess the value of the taskforce programme of work, including how to make this agenda sustainable in the longer term

4. To follow-up and track participants' progress in getting involved in political and public life.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Aviation: Security

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who informed *(a)* her and *(b)* the Prime Minister of the discovery of a bomb on board a UPS courier aircraft at East Midlands airport; and what the reasons were for the time taken to inform each Minister of that discovery. [22219]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) was informed about an incident at East Midlands airport at 8.10 am on 29 October. In his capacity as Secretary of State for Transport he is routinely informed of incidents having the potential to disrupt air transport, even when no specific threat materialises. The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and the Minister of State for Security and Counter-terrorism (Baroness Neville-Jones) were all informed at lunchtime on 29 October.

Crime

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the change in overall crime levels has been between 1997 and the latest date for which figures are available in terms of the methodology used in collecting information for *(a)* police recorded crime and *(b)* the British Crime Survey. [24606]

Mrs May *[holding answer 16 November 2010]*: Both the police recorded crime statistics and the British Crime Survey provide an incomplete picture of crime.

Statistics from the two sources are published annually in the Home Office statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Homosexuality: Criminal Records

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislative proposals to change requirements for the disclosure of historic convictions for homosexual intercourse for the purpose of preventing discrimination. [27241]

Lynne Featherstone: As set out in the Home Office Business Plan, the Freedom Bill, to be introduced by February 2011, will include provisions so that those who were prosecuted for consensual gay sex at a time when this was illegal may apply to have their conviction record deleted from police records and will no longer be required to disclose their conviction in any circumstances.

Immigration

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are available to her to restrict the level of immigration from other EU member states. [26882]

Damian Green *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: The right to free movement is not unlimited; European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) nationals must be exercising a Treaty right as a worker, a self-employed or self-sufficient person or a student if they wish to reside in the UK beyond three months.

The EU Accession Treaties for countries that have joined the EU since 2004 include a temporary derogation that allows individual member states to restrict accession workers' access to the labour market for up to five years, or up to seven years if justified on labour market grounds. This Government are committed to applying transitional controls on access to the UK labour market as a matter of course in the future to all new EU member states.

Under transitional arrangements currently in place, workers from the Central and Eastern European countries that acceded to the EU in 2004 must register their employment in the UK within one month. This scheme must end by 30 April 2011.

Workers from Romania and Bulgaria, which acceded to the EU on 1 January 2007, must seek authorisation to work from the UK Border Agency and meet the required criteria. These restrictions will remain in force until 31 December 2011 and may be extended for a further two years.

Migration

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-71, on controlling migration, what the minimum amount is which any applicant must be able to deposit in a UK-based financial institution prior to becoming eligible for an entrepreneur visa. [27758]

Damian Green: The minimum amount an applicant to the tier 1 (entrepreneur) route must have available to deposit in a UK-based financial institution is currently £200,000. We will announce details of the revised criteria for entrepreneurs in due course.

Vetting

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent representations she has received from accredited guardianship organisations on her Department's review of the vetting and barring regime; [27681]

(2) what account she took of accredited guardianship organisations in her Department's review of the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [27684]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 30 November 2010]:* The review and remodelling of the Vetting and Barring Scheme is still under way. Representations from various organisations including those involved with the private and independent schools sector have been received, and will be taken into account as the review progresses.

WALES

Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what grants have been awarded by her Department in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 to date; what grants she plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant fund; and to which organisations such grants have been made. [27861]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 737W.

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment she has made of the compliance of her Department with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27851]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office obtains its support services through the Ministry of Justice and comes under that Ministry's sustainable development framework, where there is a requirement for all timber to be from sustainable sources.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the environment of *(a)* small-scale biodiesel production and *(b)* competition within the biodiesel market. [26932]

Norman Baker: The environmental impacts of biofuel production are included in the lifecycle assessment of biofuels awarded renewable transport fuel certificates (RTFCs).

Biofuel producers who wish to claim RTFCs for the fuel they produce must register with the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA). In the 2009-10 reporting period 33 non-obligated biofuels producers were awarded RTFCs. The RFA quarterly reports list all biofuel producers awarded RTFCs during the reporting period, but do not distinguish between small and large suppliers. The volume of fuel supplied is commercially sensitive data.

The RFA requires fuel suppliers claiming RTFCs to submit monthly reports on the lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) saving and the sustainability of the biofuels they supply. Summaries of the data supplied are published in the RFA's quarterly reports. In the 2009-10 reporting period all biofuels-only suppliers reported meeting a qualifying environmental standard in 90% or more of the biofuel supplied and all reported on the fuel characteristics (feedstock, country of origin, sustainability and previous land use) for more than 95% of the fuel supplied, although in many cases environmental data were reported using RFA default values.

The RFA quarterly reports are available at:

www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk

East Midlands Airport: Security

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what time on 29 October 2010 he was informed of the security incident at East Midlands airport. [22480]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) was informed about an incident at East Midlands airport at 8.10am on Friday 29 October. In his capacity as Secretary of State for Transport he is routinely informed of incidents having the potential to disrupt air transport, even when no specific threat materialises. The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and the Minister of State for Security and Counter-terrorism (Baroness Neville-Jones) were all informed at lunchtime on Friday 29 October.

Lake Windermere: Speed Limits

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the speed limit is for motorised transportation across Lake Windermere in *(a)* miles per hour, *(b)* nautical miles per hour and *(c)* kilometres per hour. [26475]

Mike Penning: Speed limits for motorised transportation across Lake Windermere are a matter for the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA).

The LDNPA's website states

> "There is a 10 nautical miles per hour speed limit on Lake Windermere, dropping to 6 miles per hour in some areas."

Official Cars: Liquefied Natural Gas

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the potential cost savings likely to be made from converting a Government Car Service vehicle to be fuelled by liquefied petroleum gas autogas. [27204]

Mike Penning: The cost-effectiveness of a conversion to liquid petroleum gas (LPG) can only be realised with vehicles that cover high mileage using primarily LPG and without incurring the associated reliability issues that the conversion creates. The mileage profile and replacement cycle of a Government Car Service vehicle would not permit full recovery of the conversion costs.

Parking: Fines

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities *(a)* responsible for London boroughs and *(b)* outside London have contacted his Department to seek an increase in charges for parking penalties. [27114]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* Penalty charges in London are the responsibility of the London Mayor. The British Parking Association has raised this matter with Ministers on behalf of their local authority members. In addition six local authorities have written to the Department for Transport.

Stourbridge to Walsall Freight Rail Line

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on reinstating the Stourbridge to Walsall freight rail line; and if he will make a statement. [27799]

Mrs Villiers: There is no current project to reinstate the Stourbridge to Walsall line. However, Network Rail has published the West Midlands and Chilterns Route Utilisation Strategy Draft for Consultation in November 2010. It has established that there may be a case for re-opening the Stourbridge to Walsall line to accommodate future freight growth.

Transport: Expenditure

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes his Department has made to its formula for assessing benefit-to-cost ratios in respect of transport schemes since May 2010. [27328]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not changed its definitive appraisal guidance since May 2010. The guidance, along with planned changes released "in draft" in January 2010 (which included a new benefit-cost ratio formula), are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/index.php

Spending review decisions were informed by a value-for-money measure which was consistent with two of the proposed changes to the guidance: introducing the latest monetary values of carbon and adopting the new benefit-cost ratio formula.

The Department for Transport's business plan for 2011-15 states it will reform the way transport projects are assessed, and funding prioritisation decisions are made, so that the benefits of low carbon proposals are fully recognised. This includes reviewing and revising its guidance on appraising transport projects, as well as its processes for assessing schemes and supporting ministerial decisions. We will announce the scope and timetable of this review shortly.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the remit of the Defence Reform Units review includes forces and operations in Afghanistan. [26292]

Dr Fox: The remit of the Defence Reform Unit's review does not include our current forces or operations in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Aircraft

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect of implementing his decision to procure the non-STOVL variant of the joint strike fighter on the number of jobs. [27614]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 30 November 2010]:* The decision to purchase the carrier variant (CV) of the joint strike fighter (JSF) was made on the basis of its advantages offered in terms of interoperability with allies, range, and pay load and through life costs over the short take off and vertical landing (STOVL) variant.

The industrial implications of the key strategic defence and security review choices were given careful consideration, but we have not made a specific assessment of the impact on the jobs in the UK of the decision to proceed with the CV of the JSF. Many UK companies continue to be heavily involved in the overall JSF programme.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which engines have been chosen to be fitted on the joint strike fighter; and if he will make a statement. [27615]

Peter Luff: Pending the US decision as to whether to continue funding for the completion of development of the alternative General Electric/Rolls Royce F136 engine, it is too early to determine which engines will be fitted to the joint strike fighter.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the strategic defence and security review, page 24, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of introducing protected support vehicles to replace unprotected versions that are no longer suitable. [26794]

Peter Luff: There are a number of future planned programmes for both protected and unprotected support vehicles. The protection level of any given vehicle is very much driven by the capability the vehicle is designed to meet and the threat level it is expected to face. To maintain flexibility many of the vehicles are designed and procured with the ability to be fitted with additional protection in order to match specific threats.

The Wolfhound, Coyote and Husky tactical support vehicles have been procured specifically for Afghanistan and over 500 will enter service at an approved cost of over £500 million.

The new Foxhound light protected patrol vehicle will replace Snatch Vixen on operations and an initial tranche of 200 vehicles has been approved at a cost of around £180 million excluding VAT.

The cost of the Operational Utility Vehicle System will be determined after the main investment decision point.

Defence Exports Group

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Defence Exports Group was established; what its terms of reference are; who its members are; how many times it will meet per year; and when it will next meet. [22652]

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to establish the Defence Exports Group; and whether a decision has been made on its composition. [25615]

Dr Fox: The Defence Exports Support Group (DESG) was established on 22 October. The core DESG membership is the Secretary of State for Defence; the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology; the Minister for International Security Strategy; and Head, Defence and Security Organisation, UK Trade and Investment. Ministers and/or senior officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will also attend as appropriate. The DESG will be a forum through which Ministers will plan and focus their support to UK Defence exports. The intention is to hold the first DESG meeting before Christmas at which its terms of reference and frequency of meetings will be discussed.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of making alternative arrangements for *(a)* protection of the carrier fleet and *(b)* provision of strategic deterrent against submarines compared to the cost of retaining the Nimrod MRA4; and if he will make a statement; [26944]

(2) what assessment he has made of the consequences for *(a)* intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance support, *(b)* maritime protection and *(c)* search and rescue capability in respect of (i) protection of merchant shipping and (ii) protection of coastal waters following the decision to cease the use of Nimrod MRA4 aircraft; what estimate he has made of changes to the cost to the public purse in the provision of such services as a result; and if he will make a statement; [27016]

(3) what assessment he has made of the cost to his Department of C130 and C130K aircraft as a replacement for the Nimrod MRA4 for *(a)* intelligence surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance, *(b)* maritime protection and *(c)* search and rescue; and if he will make a statement. [27026]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W, to the right hon. Member for Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) and the hon. Members for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann), and North Durham (Mr Jones).

The UK's requirement for Anti-Submarine Warfare and intelligence surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR) capability was assessed during the Strategic Defence and Security Review and will be kept under regular review. I can confirm that we have judged the implications of the decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service to be acceptable. We are in the process of developing a longer-term plan to mitigate the impact of cancellation on our continuing military tasks and capabilities. This will include an assessment of costs.

Rescue Services

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the concept of operations underpinning the search and rescue (helicopter) requirement included the assumption that a search and rescue helicopter fleet would operate in conjunction with Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. [26669]

Dr Fox: The search and rescue helicopter project includes the requirement that the helicopters would be able to interface with any other assets that might also be involved in dealing with an incident.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) to whom his Department's document entitled SDSR: Lessons Identified, 3 November 2010, was submitted; [26297]

(2) who commissioned his Department's document entitled SDSR: Lessons Identified, 3 November 2010; [26301]

(3) if he will publish his Department's document entitled SDSR: Lessons Identified. [26312]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The document was proposed and a draft prepared by the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) core co-ordination team in charge of day-to-day management of the Review, to draw together working-level views from individuals involved in the SDSR process in the Ministry of Defence. The draft was a working document distributed to members of the SDSR programme board for comment: The Government have no intention to publish it.

Trident Submarines

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on long lead items for Vanguard submarines prior to the final decision to proceed with construction of the submarines. [26415]

Dr Fox: Details of the cost of long lead items for the Vanguard class are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of the cost of replacing Trident likely to be incurred prior to a decision of the House at Main Gate Stage on submarine replacement in 2016. [26416]

Dr Fox: The likely expenditure will be dependent on the Initial Gate decision which we expect to finalise shortly. I do, however, propose to update Parliament on progress, including costs, after the Initial Gate decision through the publication of a report.

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his plans to co-operate on nuclear warhead testing with France, whether the UK will continue to *(a)* participate in or *(b)* receive the results of US sub-critical nuclear tests undertaken at the Nevada nuclear test site. [27415]

Dr Fox: The recently signed treaty with France on proposed nuclear co-operation does not address "nuclear warhead testing" but delivers hydrodynamic experiments that provide a key element of assurance for the safety and reliability of the UK's nuclear stockpile.

I am satisfied that the treaty is complementary to our nuclear co-operation with the US under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement and the nuclear exchanges made possible through that agreement.

Warships: Decommissioning

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether HMS Ark Royal will be offered for sale to foreign navies following her decommissioning. [27188]

Peter Luff: HMS Ark Royal is due to formally leave service with the Royal Navy in early 2011. It is too early to determine the future plans for HMS Ark Royal.

Any decision will be in line with the Ministry of Defence's policy for handling surplus assets.

SCOTLAND

Elections

13. **Jim McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Electoral Commission to discuss the management of elections in Scotland. [26720]

David Mundell: My right hon. Friend and the Advocate-General for Scotland met the Electoral Commission on 13 October.

I will be meeting the new Convener of the Electoral Management Board later this month to discuss preparations for next year's elections and referendum on the UK parliamentary voting system.

VAT

14. **Fiona O'Donnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the likely effect on families in Scotland of the proposed increase in value added tax. [26721]

David Mundell: The VAT rise is part of the Government's credible plan to tackle the largest deficit in peacetime history. Difficult decisions are necessary but, as a consequence, we will get ourselves back on a sustainable economic footing.

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what expenditure his Department incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27521]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The only expenditure it has incurred since then by sponsoring others outside Government to promote a cause or provide a service was £3,296 in 2002-03.

Devolution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Advocate-General on devolution issues. [26717]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State and I discuss devolution issues with the Advocate-General on a regular basis, and we have all worked together on preparations for the new Scotland Bill which will deliver the Government's commitment to strengthening the devolution settlement for Scotland.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable he has set for the implementation of his proposals to amend the law on universal jurisdiction. [27240]

Mr Blunt: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, which was introduced into this House yesterday, contains a provision requiring the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions to be given before an arrest warrant can be issued in a private prosecution for an offence of universal jurisdiction alleged to have been committed outside the United Kingdom. This requirement would ensure that, whilst private individuals could still apply for an arrest warrant, a warrant could be issued only where there was a prospect of successful prosecution.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [27214]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Between April and October 2010 the MoJ awarded grants worth £70 million to external organisations. The organisations who were awarded grants are listed in the following table.

For 2011-12, the MoJ is still exploring funding options for external organisations and charities. The MoJ 2012-13 funding is subject to the 2010 spending review and is not yet finalised. NOMS has estimates in place for 2011-12 and 2012-13 but these are subject to change based on funding levels from MoJ.

The MoJ also provides grants-in-aid to its NDPBs. For the year 2010-11, the gross provisions[1] for these are:

NDPB	*Grant-in-Aid (£000)*
Legal Services Commission	2,175,331
Information Commissioner's Office	7,990
Judicial Appointments Commission	6,860
Parole Board	10,948
Youth Justice Board	448,131
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	238,823
Criminal Cases Review Commission	6,496

[1] As per the 2010-11 winter supplementary estimates

Note:

These figures are subject to change following end of year audit.

The MoJ is currently working out specific funding requirements for NDPBs in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Organisation or Umbrella term	*Grant awarded by MoJ or executive agency (£000)*
Writers in Prison Network Ltd	47
Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group	16
Koestler Trust	35
NACRO	1,149
SOVA	248
Prisoners Abroad	146
CVS Pre-release Volunteer Scheme	79
National Assoc. of Prison Visitors	6
RCJ (Miscarriages of Justice)	90
Mubarek Trust	23
Prison Video Trust	29
Action for Prisoners' Families	187
Samaritans	55
United Synagogue Visitation Committee	12
Sikh Chaplaincy Service UK	17
Angulimala	17
ADFAM	84
Magistrates' Association	37
Operation Black Vote	70
John Smith Memorial Trust	320
UK Subscription for the Hague Conference	161
GRECO ID contribution	30
Great Britain China Centre	190
China Law Council	328
Plenet for running costs between Apr-Jun	50
Money Advice Trust	750
The Helplines Association	25
Family Drug and Alcohol Court pilot	35
Reunite	128
National Mediation Helpline	90
Family Mediation Helpline	40
Coroners' Support Service	48
Development Trust Association	50
Women In Prison	80
Women's Community Projects (umbrella)	6,200
CLINKS	548
Local Criminal Justice Boards	7,375
Victim Support	51,566
Total	70,271

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the monetary value of grants awarded by his Department was in 2009-10; and how much he expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [27215]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In 2009-10 the Ministry of Justice awarded grants to external organisations to the value of £81.4 million.

For the full financial year of 2010-11, the MoJ anticipates a total expenditure of £71.8 million to be made in grants to external bodies.

The grants to external organisations for 2011-12 have yet to be decided.

Note:

All future figures are estimates only and are subject to change.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27506]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is responsible for two directives that are currently pending transposition into domestic legislation:

Directive 2008/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on Certain Aspects of Mediation in Civil and Commercial Matters. The introduction of this directive will not impose additional regulatory burdens on businesses. The procedures it will introduce will be optional to those wishing to conduct EU cross-border mediations, and are expected to lead to greater legal certainty for those involved. The main costs envisaged to implement the directive are in relation to the necessary facilitative amendments to court rules and minimal costs in training court staff and the judiciary.

Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Right to Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings. We are currently considering the most cost-effective ways of transposing and implementing this directive, with the result that estimated costs cannot currently be provided.

Prisons: Visits

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many registered prison visitors there were in each of the last five years; and whether he plans to take steps to increase the number of such visitors. [27667]

Mr Blunt: Statistical information on the number of official prison visitors (OPVs) is not collated centrally. OPVs are independent volunteers appointed by prison governors to visit prisoners and offer friendship. They are neither paid civil servants nor religiously affiliated volunteers. The appointment of OPVs is a matter for the governing governor of each establishment.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what checks are made with suppliers to ensure that halal and kosher meat are not supplied as ordinary meat intended for general consumption in canteens and restaurants of the House of Commons. [27688]

John Thurso: Incumbent suppliers and suppliers bidding for the award of the contract for the future supply of fresh meats and poultry to the House of Commons catering service have confirmed that kosher meat does not enter the mainstream supply chain to catering establishments and, on that basis, they are confident that kosher meat has not been, nor will be, supplied to the House as ordinary meat.

As stated in the reply given on 16 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 761W, by the hon. Member for Middlesbrough (Sir Peter Stuart Bell) to the hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr Knight), incumbent suppliers have admitted that it is highly likely that halal-slaughtered poultry has in the past been supplied to the House of Commons instead of ordinary meat. Henceforth, all suppliers have agreed, as a condition of contract, that halal-slaughtered meats and poultry will not be supplied unless expressly ordered or agreed to by the House of Commons catering service. This requirement has been added to the contract currently being tendered.

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether meat used in canteens and restaurants in the House of Commons in the last 12 months had been slaughtered by kosher methods. [27689]

John Thurso: No kosher meat has been served in the House of Commons cafeterias and restaurants in the last 12 months.

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether kosher meat has been used in non-kosher dishes in the restaurants or canteens in the House of Commons in the last 12 months. [27696]

John Thurso: No kosher meat has been used in non-kosher dishes in the House of Commons restaurants or cafeterias in the last 12 months.

Parliamentary Archives: Manpower

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission how many staff at each grade are employed in the Parliamentary Archives; and if he will make a statement. [28132]

John Thurso: The Parliamentary Archives, a shared service of both Houses, employs 23.5 staff at the following House of Lords' grades:

	Number
Senior band 1	1
A2	3
B1	6
B2	5.5
C2	2
C3	6

Smartphone Applications

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what estimate the Parliamentary Information and Communications Technology Office has made of the cost of developing a mobile smartphone application for Parliament; what the cost will be of holding focus group meetings on 30 November 2010 and 1 December 2010; and when the smartphone application is due to be available. [27382]

John Thurso: The development of a new mobile application, designed primarily for those visiting Parliament, is being led from within the Department of Information Services. The procurement for the smartphone mobile application is currently running, and to publish the budget might influence the responses from potential suppliers.

Only one focus group is now being run, on 30 November. The focus group planned for 1 December is not going ahead. The participants are coming in on a voluntary basis and are not being paid. The cost of holding the focus groups will depend on the number of participants, and will be restricted to the provision of refreshments and any claims for reasonable travel costs. Refreshments are expected to cost £17.50, and a maximum of £20 per person is being set for travel claims. At present, seven people have registered an interest.

It is expected that the smartphone application will be available from April 2011.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Public Accounts Commission for answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to the Commission of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25991]

Mr Tyrie: In Session 2009-10, there was one question tabled to the Public Accounts Commission for answer on a named day. This received a substantive answer four days after the day named, which was the next sitting day. Since May 2010 there have been no named day questions.

The Public Accounts Commission has not made an estimate of the average cost of answering a named day question on the day named for answer but it is noted that HM Treasury has established the cost of a written PQ as £154.00. See paragraph 7.27 at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Public Accounts Commission for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to the Commission of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25992]

Mr Tyrie: In Session 2009-10, there were two questions tabled to the Public Accounts Commission for ordinary written answer, of which both were answered within seven days. Between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 there were no questions tabled for ordinary written answer.

The Public Accounts Commission has not made an estimate of the average cost of answering an ordinary written question within seven days of tabling, but it is noted that HM Treasury has established the cost of a written PQ as £154.00. See paragraph 7.27 at the following link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide/chapter7.aspx

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Akmyrat Rejepow

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Turkmenistan on the *(a)* fate and *(b)* whereabouts of Akmyrat Rejepow. [27314]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no representations to the Turkmen Government on the fate and whereabouts of Akmyrat Rejepow, nor are we aware of a request for us to do so. We understand that Mr Rejepow (a former general in the Turkmen security apparatus) was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in May 2007, having been convicted on charges of corruption. We understand he is being held in secure detention in Ashgabat or in a prison colony not far from Ashgabat. Mr Rejepow's son, Nurmurad—arrested at the same time—was pardoned in 2007.

We continue to have a regular and constructive dialogue with the Turkmen Government on human rights issues, both bilaterally and through international fora such as the European Union. Monitoring and raising individual cases forms an important component of this dialogue.

British Council: Finance

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding was provided by his Department to the British Council in each year since 2005. [23459]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 970W.

Cayman Islands: Loans

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conditions were placed on the loan of £217 million to the Cayman Islands authorised in 2009. [27742]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government gave permission for the Cayman Islands Government to borrow Cayman Island $275 million in October 2009, subject to the Cayman Islands Government (CIG):

including further savings/efficiency measures in 2009-10 budget plans;

undertaking an urgent independent impact assessment of the community enhancement fee, alternative forms of payroll tax, property tax and any other tax that would genuinely broaden the revenue base;

introducing substantial new tax(es) or fee(s) as identified in the impact assessment study as soon as possible and certainly no later than financial year 2010; and

taking swift action to further cut expenditure and/or raise additional revenue if a greater than expected deficit was recorded.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conditions he placed on the loans to the Cayman Islands authorised in June 2010. [27743]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government gave permission for the Cayman Islands Government to borrow Cayman Island $155 million in June 2010, subject to:

The measures in the Cayman Islands Government's (CIG) three year plan being fully implemented, which included measures to make significant savings/efficiencies, and raise revenue by increasing fuel duty over the three years;

CIG using the proceeds of divestment activity to establish a dedicated "sinking fund" within the next year to rebuild reserves and offset debt attached to the recent bond issue;

CIG restructuring existing loans to put in place arrangements to pay down debt over the longer term; and

CIG ensuring that the Cayman Islands have a full, up-to-date set of audited accounts by the end of the next financial year; and

No further requests for borrowing being made over the next financial year.

Diplomatic Service: Domestic Staff

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations govern the *(a)* working conditions and *(b)* remuneration of domestic staff employed by foreign diplomats accredited to the UK. [28045]

Mr Bellingham: Article 41 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 states that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, it is the duty of all diplomats

'to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State'.

This includes employment laws. Diplomatic missions and international organisations in the UK are periodically reminded of their responsibilities with regard to the employment of domestic workers; in August 2010, Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued a note to all missions highlighting their obligations. Government Departments work together and with non-governmental organisations to monitor the employment rights of domestic workers in foreign diplomatic households in the UK.

European Union

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what powers have been ceded to the EU and in what areas of policy jurisdiction since 10 May 2010 and in each case specifying whether such cession was by *(a)* EU legislative instrument, *(b)* judicial decision, *(c)* operation of a passerelle provision, *(d)* the ending of an opt-out, *(e)* an agreement to opt-in, *(f)* treaty amendment and *(g)* other means. [26626]

Mr Lidington: All of the legislative measures that have been adopted since 10 May 2010 have been based on the existing powers and competences conferred on the EU under the existing EU treaties, which have been approved by Parliament. None of the passerelles under the existing EU treaties have been exercised since 10 May 2010. There have been no treaty amendments. We are not aware of any judicial decisions which have resulted in a transfer of competence or power from the UK to the EU. The whole of Title V is an area of shared competence. This position is not altered by the exercise of a UK opt-in.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on attendance at the 2010 FIFA World cup. [26149]

Mr Jeremy Browne: No Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers or officials visited South Africa to attend the 2010 World cup, and no money was spent by the FCO on purchasing match tickets.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bottles of *(a)* red wine, *(b)* white wine, *(c)* champagne and *(d)* fortified wine there are in the Government wine cellar. [26387]

Mr Bellingham: The Government Hospitality wine cellar has held between 38,000 and 39,000 bottles of wine for the last five years. The most recent independent stock-take in October 2010 showed that the Government Hospitality wine cellar contained:

(a) 25,721 bottles of red wine

(b) 7,624 bottles of white wine

(c) 1,661 bottles of champagne

(d) 2,937 bottles of fortified wine.

This excludes non-vintage reception wines.

Cellar stock levels are regularly reassessed and the cellar's performance and value for money are reviewed throughout the year.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at which events held between 11 May and 11 November 2010 wine from the Government wine cellar was served. [26388]

Mr Bellingham: Events held between 11 May 2010 and 11 November 2010 at which wine from the Government Hospitality wine cellar was served are as follows.

The following were on a repayment basis:

13 May 2010: Dinner for British-American business hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business.

8 June 2010: Diplomatic reception hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

9 June 2010: Dinner for Israeli judges hosted by my right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice.

5 July 2010: Reception for the Young Offenders Programme led by the National Grid hosted by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice.

28 July 2010: Reception for energy security hosted by my hon. Friends the Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Minister of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

13 September 2010: Lunch for Dr Henry Kissinger hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

21 September 2010: Reception for Eid hosted by my right hon. Friends the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and other Government Ministers.

9 November 2010: Dinner for the Secretary of Defence for the Republic of South Africa hosted by my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Security Strategy.

The following were funded by Government Hospitality Fund:

3 June 2010: Lunch for the Prime Minister of Canada hosted by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

3 June 2010: Dinner for the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

3 June 2010: Dinner for the Judicial Conference hosted by my right hon. Friends the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice.

8 June 2010: Lunch for the Secretary of Defence of the United States of America hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence.

16 June 2010: Lunch for the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

18 June 2010: Lunches for the President of the Republic of France and his Ministers hosted by my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

23 June 2010: Dinner for Reconnaissance Visit from the Holy See hosted by my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Patten of Barnes CH PC (Chancellor of the University of Oxford).

28 June 2010: Lunch for the Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany hosted by my right hon. Friend Secretary of State for Defence.

28 June 2010: Dinner for the Five Country Conference hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister for Immigration.

5 July 2010: Lunch for the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

7 July 2010: Dinner for the international energy forums hosted by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Energy and Climate Change.

8 July 2010: Lunch for the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey hosted by my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

20 July 2010: Reception for Indian Government/industry officials who attended the Farnborough International Air Show hosted by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Security Strategy.

28 July 2010: Lunch for the State Secretary of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment.

5 August 2010: Dinner for the President of Pakistan hosted by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

6 September 2010: Dinner for the capital markets climate initiative hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change.

8 September 2010: Dinner for the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Commonwealth Affairs.

17 September 2010: Dinner for Pope Benedict XVI's delegation hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

27 September 2010: Lunch for the Minister for Roads, Transport and Highways of the Republic of India hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport.

27 September 2010: Lunch for the Reconnaissance Party for the state visit of the Emir of Qatar.

21 October 2010: Lunch for the UK/Mexico high level talks hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

21 October 2010: Lunch for the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

25 October 2010: Lunch for the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi hosted by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

25 October 2010: Lunch for the Finance Minister for the Swiss Confederation hosted by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.

26/27 October 2010: Lunch and state banquet for the state visit of the Emir of Qatar hosted by Her Majesty the Queen.

27 October 2010: Dinner for the Secretary for Policy, Strategy and International Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil hosted by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Security Strategy.

30/31 October 2010: Lunch and dinner for the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany hosted by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

2 November 2010: Lunch for the UK-France summit hosted by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

8 November 2010: Dinner for the International Energy Forum hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change.

11 November 2010 Lunch for the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for the Wrekin of 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 631W, on Iraq: Christianity, what the outcomes were of his meeting with the Iraqi Foreign Minister; and if he will take further steps to seek to secure protection for institutions in Iraq. [27860]

Alistair Burt: Iraqi Foreign Minister Zebari confirmed to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 10 November that the protection of minorities was the responsibility of the Iraqi Government. This responsibility has been recognised more widely by the Iraqi Prime Minister and the newly elected Speaker of the Council of Representatives Usamah Al-Nujaifi. The Speaker has requested that Christian MP Yonadam Kanna form a parliamentary committee to prepare recommendations for protecting Christians and follow up investigations into the recent attacks. The Iraqi Council of Representatives has also called for increased recruitment of Christians into the Iraq security forces.

During my visit to Iraq from 22-25 November I raised the need to improve the protection of Christians and other minorities with all his interlocutors. The British Government will continue to press the Iraqi Government to ensure that Iraqi constitutional commitments to guarantee the rights and freedoms of citizens is respected and protected. We will also continue to urge the Iraqi Government to protect all communities, especially vulnerable minority groups and to deal appropriately with those who are found responsible for any acts of violence and intimidation because of political, ethnic or religious affiliation.

Israel: OECD

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK representation is on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development *(a)* Committee of Statistics and *(b)* study team quantifying the effects on Israeli macro-economic statistics of the inclusion of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank. [25635]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK Statistics Authority represents the UK on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Committee on Statistics. The authority will also represent the UK on the study team quantifying the effects on Israeli macro-economic statistics of the inclusion of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank. This work is expected to begin in early 2011.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much funding his Department provided to non-governmental organisations within the Palestinian Authorities of the West Bank and Gaza in each financial year since 2003; and for what purposes such funds were allocated; [21986]

(2) how much funding his Department has provided to non-governmental organisations located in the Palestinian authorities of the West Bank and Gaza in each financial year since 2003; and for what purposes such payments were made. [25737]

Alistair Burt: Between 2003-04 and 2009-10 financial years, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided £2,420,960 to non-governmental organisations within the West Bank and Gaza. The breakdown is as follows:

	£
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	122,000
2005-06	104,482
2006-07	542,328
2007-08	484,113
2008-09	604,824
2009-10	563,213

[1] No allocation

The list of organisations and project funding for 2010-11 is an indicative list, as funding cannot be confirmed at this point of the financial year.

The FCO utilises a number of funding programmes with the purpose of (a) strengthening the bilateral relationship (b) helping to manage or mitigate conflicts and (c) developing the capacity of non-state actors in the West Bank and Gaza to provide oversight of the Executive and its actions including monitoring of human rights, access to justice and social welfare.

Piracy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on the development of policy to counter international piracy. [27107]

Mr Lidington: There have been no recent meetings at North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) at ministerial level specifically to discuss counter piracy. But, in the communiqué of its recent Lisbon summit, NATO renewed its commitment to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean through its Operation Ocean Shield.

NATO works closely alongside the EU's Operation Atalanta and the Combined Maritime Forces so as to respond effectively and coherently to the threat of piracy, including on allocation of assets to the large area of operations. NATO is also a key partner in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, working comprehensively to address operational, legal and regional capacity concerns to ensure that piracy is tackled on a sustainable basis, including at its roots.

The UK continues to support the operation, which has recently has had its mandate extended until 2012. The Royal Navy currently has a frigate and auxiliary vessel allocated to Operation Ocean Shield.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Agriculture: Training

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much funding from the public purse will be available for *(a)* apprenticeship schemes and *(b)* vocational courses in the agricultural sector (i) nationally and (ii) in Central Suffolk and North Ipswich constituency in 2011-12. [26866]

(2) how many places will be available for *(a)* apprenticeship schemes and *(b)* vocational courses in the agricultural sector (i) nationally and (ii) in the Central Suffolk and North Ipswich constituency in 2011-12. [26867]

Mr Hayes: "Investing Skills for Sustainable Growth" was published on 16 November. In the 2011-12 financial year, we plan to invest £3.9 billion in FE skills for post 19 learners. This includes £3.7 billion for over three million adult training places funded through the Skills Funding Agency. In the 2011-12 financial year, £605 million is earmarked for adult apprenticeships. Spend on adult apprenticeships will increase by up to £250 million, relative to the previous Government, by the end of the spending review period, supporting an additional 75,000 people to start an apprenticeship by 2014-15.

In support of the coalition Government's principle of greater freedom, "Skills for Sustainable Growth and Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" set out the abolition of central targets and increased freedom and flexibility for further education colleges and training organisations to respond effectively to the needs of employers, learners and their communities. It will be for individual colleges and training organisations, working directly with their local partners, to determine the offer that best meets the needs of their communities.

From the 2011/12 academic year, there will be a single adult skills budget, with earmarked delivery for apprenticeships. As part of its allocations process later this year, the Skills Funding Agency will set out a minimum expectation of apprenticeships delivery. Further Education colleges and training organisations will be able to use their single adult skills budget allocation to expand apprenticeships. However, any diversion of funding away from apprenticeships is to be agreed with the Agency.

Information on learner participation and achievement in further education is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 16 November and can be viewed at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Credit: Regulation

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made an estimate of the numbers of UK residents who have been refused access to credit through banks and building societies in the last 10 years. [26472]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 30 November 2010]:* The Government do not collect data on the number of UK residents refused credit by banks and building societies.

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills commissions a quarterly survey (carried out by YouGov), which monitors the latest consumer credit and debt trends. The following table has been produced from this survey, showing the proportion of the population who have applied for credit (broken down by credit type) in the last six months and the outcome of this application.

Proportion of the population who have applied for unsecured credit and the outcome of this application (where the outcome is known) in the last six months

Credit product	*Proportion of the population who applied for credit/ loans (percentage)*	*Application was rejected (percentage)*	*Percentage of total population*
Credit card	8	24	1.9
Unsecured loan	3	33	0.7
Overdraft facility	2	29	0.8
Store card	1	19	0.3
Mail order	1	14	0.2
Car finance loan	1	9	0.1

Notes:

1. Based on 2009-10 YouGov data, sample size 13,172.

2. The statistics in the table need to be interpreted with caution. Due to data limitations, we are unable to say how many individuals were refused credit completely in the last six months. For instance, a borrower may have refused a credit card, but was able to secure an overdraft facility. In addition, the values in the table cannot be summed, to produce statistics on the proportion of the population refused credit. This is because some borrowers may have been rejected for more than one credit product. Certain credit products have been excluded such as payday loans and home credit, which are unlikely to be offered by banks and building societies.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25438]

Mr Davey: The Department's contracted catering and conference supplier Baxterstorey are accredited to the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme and are fully compliant, demonstrating robust support for enhanced animal welfare, environmental responsibility, quality produce and supporting British producers.

The Department adheres wherever possible to the five key objectives of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI). These objectives run in parallel to those of Baxterstorey, which form part of the policies that result in the approach to sustainable and ethical procurement. For example all eggs used on the departmental estate are British, Lion Brand standard and free range and 99% of all pork and bacon products are British and supplied by Red Tractor accredited suppliers.

Higher Education: Admissions

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the participation rate was of people aged 18 years in each income quintile entering higher education for the first time in the latest period for which figures are available. [27759]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not publish information in the form requested. Latest figures show that 15% of pupils aged 15 in 2003/04 who claimed free school meals (FSM) at English maintained schools progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2007/08. The equivalent figure for young people who did not claim free school meals is 33%.

FSM eligibility is means tested and the majority of FSM young people are from households in receipt of some form of income support. Some 14% of young people claim free school meals.

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Figures for 2008/09 will be available next year.

The Department uses a number of measures to monitor progress on participation of disadvantaged students, such as those from low participation neighbourhoods, and low socio-economic groups. However, figures in this answer have been provided as receipt of FSM is directly related to family income.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 480W, on higher education: finance, what the outcomes were of his discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. [27309]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) and I have discussed the proposed changes to higher education funding and student finance at Cabinet. Our statements to the House of Commons on this subject reflect the Government position, as agreed at these meetings.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to fund the development of local enterprise partnerships; by what mechanisms such partnerships will be able to bid for funds from his Department to fulfil their duties; and if he will make a statement. [27714]

Mr Prisk: No central Government spending has been allocated specifically to fund the activities of local enterprise partnerships. As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth local enterprise partnerships will be expected to fund their own day-to-day running costs and will also want to consider how they can obtain the best value for public money by leveraging in private sector investment. The mechanisms for how local enterprise partnerships may bid for centrally available funds, such as the regional growth fund, will be specific to the fund itself. Details regarding how to access the regional growth fund can be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/regional-growth-fund

Manufacturing Industries: Trade Competitiveness

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to support competitiveness in the manufacturing sector. [27090]

Mr Prisk: The Government are supporting manufacturing by creating a stable business environment that will give businesses the confidence they need to plan and invest. We are doing this by creating a more supportive tax environment, freeing up credit through the banking system, reducing regulation, maximising the flexibility of the labour market and focusing on training and apprenticeships. The Government announced in the spending review that they will invest up to £200 million to support manufacturing and business development focusing on high growth business and innovation particularly among small and medium sized businesses.

The Government have launched their comprehensive growth review and this will ensure that all Departments are actively removing barriers faced by industry.

As part of the phased reporting process, we will conduct a detailed look into barriers to growth within advanced manufacturing.

Also on 6 December we will be launching a new approach to manufacturing that will highlight key ambitions, identify growth opportunities and set out a new framework of actions for both Government and industry.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 485W, on the Regional Growth Fund, what types of proposals will meet the criteria to be considered as strategic investment programmes. [27335]

Mr Prisk: There will be a separate bidding form and guidance for programme proposals, which will be made available in early 2011. Programme proposals are therefore not included within the first bidding round.

UK Trade and Investment: Bahrain

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps UKTI is taking to increase trade and investment with the Kingdom of Bahrain. [27807]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) supports business with Bahrain through trade and investment teams based in the British embassy in Manama and in the UK. UKTI provides a broad range of support for British companies—from conferences and trade missions to support for trade fairs and exhibitions—and also oversees annual trade and economic talks with Bahrain aimed at prioritising opportunities and improving the environment for bilateral trade and investment. The most recent talks resulted in the signature of a bilateral Double Taxation Agreement in March 2010.

Recent examples of support for business with Bahrain include visits by the Lord Mayor of the City of London in February; and by the UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment, HRH The Duke of York, in May. UKTI organised scoping visits to Bahrain in the spring of 2010 focused on the creative industries and sports infrastructure sectors; and also organised a UK pavilion of 18 companies at the World Islamic Banking Conference in Manama in November. Regular events are organised by UKTI in the UK to raise awareness of opportunities in Bahrain, including a middle east road show in February and a financial services road show in September. UKTI also staged a 'Britain in the Region' event in Dubai in November aimed at encouraging British companies with regional headquarters in Dubai into other markets in the middle east, including Bahrain.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Attorney-General how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by the Law Officers' Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27482]

The Attorney-General: The information is as follows:

1. None

2. None.

PRIME MINISTER

Pupils: Bullying

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Prime Minister if he will establish a Cabinet Sub-Committee on the prevention of and responses to bullying in schools. [27708]

The Prime Minister: The Schools White Paper made clear our expectation that all schools should take a zero tolerance approach to bullying. Bullying in schools is discussed by the relevant Cabinet Committees.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Cumbria County Council

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of local authority funding reductions on arts organisations based in the Cumbria county council area. [27729]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area.

The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Arts: Sunderland City Council

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of local authority funding reductions on arts organisations in the Sunderland city council area. [27805]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area.

The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of the introduction of high-speed broadband services across the UK by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [27683]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 30 November 2010]:* Overall, we believe there will be a net benefit to the economy from the introduction of superfast broadband. The Government have made no recent estimate of the costs of deploying superfast broadband. The Broadband Stakeholder Group recently published a complementary report on the costs of fixed wireless and satellite broadband.

The Government have committed £530 million to facilitate the delivery of universal broadband and stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Co-production Agreement between the UK and Israel

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the revenue likely to be raised as a result of the co-production agreement between the UK and Israel in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012, *(d)* 2013 and *(e)* 2014. [27239]

Mr Vaizey: We have estimated an average annual benefit of between £0.5 million and £2.5 million. The monetised benefits reflect spending on films which would not have occurred without the treaty being in place. The range reflects a lower case scenario where one film is made every two years with £1 million UK spend, and the upper case involves five films with £1 million spend made every two years.

In addition, research indicates that film locations can get up to a 30% boost in bookings from fans visiting locations from their favourite film (e.g. the Harry Potter films have helped boost tourism in the Northumberland area by 16%). As well as clear tourism potential, there are cultural benefits to the UK of greater film diversity. Given that the film industry largely comprises Single Purpose Vehicles it is difficult to predict in advance how many businesses will make use of the treaty. We do not believe it will be significantly higher than projections, particularly in the first few years.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has assessed the merits of extending to other countries the provisions of the co-production agreement agreed with Israel. [27248]

Mr Vaizey: The recently signed film co-production agreements with Israel, and with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, were the ninth and tenth agreements respectively to be signed in full. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport also has similar co-production agreements with Australia, Canada, France, Jamaica, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Morocco—the Moroccan treaty was signed last year but has yet to be fully ratified by the Moroccan authorities.

Copyright: Recordings

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the likely effect on the British music industry of the expiry of 50 years' copyright on recordings in the next 10 years. [27347]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 18 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 889-90W. There are no plans to undertake the work described.

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27520]

John Penrose: The Department does not provide corporate sponsorship or branding for events but it does encourage sponsorship of its sectors from the world of business.

Data on expenditure incurred by non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of each non-departmental public body to respond to the hon. Member for Witham directly. A copy of the responses will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Newsquest Media Group

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department have had with directors of the Newsquest Media Group on local media provision. [27336]

Mr Vaizey: As part of Nicholas Shott's review of local TV he undertook a visit to Scotland where he met with a range of interested parties including Newsquest. He was accompanied by a member of his steering group and an official from the Department.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will change the basis for calculating air passenger duty banding from London to capital city of destination to London to destination; [26546]

(2) if he will change the air passenger duty banding for destinations in the Caribbean to be the same as that for destinations on the east coast of the United States. [26545]

Justine Greening: The June Budget stated that the Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty. Major changes will be subject to consultation.

Banks: Finance

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value is of *(a)* loans and *(b)* guarantees given to UK banks by his Department since 2007. [26984]

Mr Hoban: A full breakdown of financial support provided to UK banks is published by the Treasury on a financial year basis. Details of the support provided for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are set out in the Treasury's Resource Accounts for 2007-08 (HC 539), 2008-09 (HC 611) and 2009-10 (HC261), respectively.

Banks: Loans

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 894W, on banks: loans, if he will undertake an assessment of trends in the criteria for setting personal guarantees for loans over the last 10 years. [27308]

Mr Hoban: In response to the Government's Green Paper on business finance, the British Bankers; Association (BBA) published the outcomes of their Business Finance Taskforce, which were written in conjunction with the six major UK banks.

As part of these commitments, the banks have agreed to fund and establish an independent business survey. This survey will provide more information of the experience of small businesses in applying for finance.

Copyright: Music

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the additional revenue to the Exchequer attributable to an extension to 75 years of musicians' copyright in the last 10 years. [27346]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer I gave him on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 84W.

Employers' Liability: Asbestos

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a requirement for employers to insure themselves against potential harm caused to employees by asbestosis. [24112]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 requires employers carrying on business in Great Britain to insure their liability to their employees for bodily injury or disease sustained in the course of their employment. This Act ensures that those with asbestos-related diseases can claim compensation against their Employers' Liability insurance, where the employer has been negligent in exposing them to asbestos while at work.

However, a recent Court of Appeal case has considered how the wording of these Employers' Liability insurance policies affects civil compensation for mesothelioma sufferers and we had hoped that the judgment would have provided a general principle on how these policies should deal with their mesothelioma claims. The court decided that the policies should be interpreted based on the actual policy wording, which means that some sufferers may not be able to claim compensation if the insurance policy was worded in such a way that prevents a claim from being made. We expect this judgment to be appealed to the Supreme Court.

In February 2010 the previous Government published their consultation document, 'Accessing Compensation—Supporting people who need to trace Employers' Liability insurance', which set out proposals for people who need to find their Employers' Liability insurance policies in order to claim compensation. The consultation closed on 5 May 2010. There were two proposals; firstly an Employers' Liability Tracing Office, that would manage a database of EL policies. Secondly, an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau which would be a compensation fund of last resort for those individuals who are unable to trace EL insurance records, ensuring they are able to receive compensation for injuries or diseases sustained during the course of their employment. We are in active discussions with all stakeholders on how this situation can be addressed and we will publish our response to the consultation in due course.

Income Tax

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of revenue which accrued from income tax from employees in each business sector in each of the last three years. [27548]

Mr Gauke: A sectoral breakdown of income tax revenues for the latest three years is not available.

Estimated shares of pay as you earn tax liabilities deducted from pay (excluding pensions) by industry to 2007-08 are published in table 2.10 on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-10.xls

Total PAYE tax (excluding pensions) is estimated at £107.2 billion, £115.7 billion and £123.3 billion in respect of liabilities for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Members: Correspondence

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Secretary to the Treasury plans to respond to the letters of 17 September 2010 and 1 November 2010 from the hon. Member for Cardiff West. [27753]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mortgages

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has assessed the effect of the mortgage market proposals made by the Financial Services Authority on small businesses with a turnover under £1 million; [27483]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on house prices of the mortgage market proposals made by the Financial Services Authority; and if he will make a statement. [27484]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to a healthy housing and mortgage market.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is conducting a wholesale review of mortgage regulation in the UK, the 'Mortgage Market Review'.

The Government believe that it is right for the FSA to ensure that the UK mortgage market has responsible lending practices. We will continue to work with the FSA, mortgage lenders and intermediaries, and consumer groups to ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants.

The FSA published 'Mortgage Market Review: Responsible Lending' in July which sets out the detail of some of the proposed changes. This paper forms one part of an ongoing consultation process.

The FSA has stated that it will fully assess the potential impact on the market before implementing any rule changes. Further, the FSA will consult in 2011 on transitional measures to help mitigate any adverse effects on existing borrowers.

Mr Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has assessed the effect of the mortgage market proposals made by the Financial Services Authority on small businesses with a turnover under £1 million; [27533]

(2) whether he has assessed the effect of the Financial Services Authority's mortgage market review proposals on the *(a)* availability of mortgages and *(b)* operation of the housing market; and if he will make a statement; [27534]

(3) whether he has discussed with the Council of Mortgage Lenders the proposals on responsible lending made by the Financial Services Authority and their likely effect on the housing market; [27535]

(4) if he will take steps to ensure that the implementation of the Financial Services Authority's mortgage market review proposals does not have a negative effect on home-buyers and the housing market; [27536]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of borrowers who may not be able to take out remortgages following the introduction of the Financial Services Authority's proposals for the mortgage market; and if he will bring forward measures to assist such borrowers; [27539]

(6) what estimate he has made of the number of mortgages granted since 2005 which would not have been issued under the Financial Services Authority's proposals for the mortgage market; [27540]

(7) if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* self-employed and *(b)* other homebuyers with variable incomes will be able to obtain mortgages under the Financial Services Authority's proposals for the mortgage market; [27544]

(8) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of the Financial Services Authority's proposals on the availability of mortgage finance and on home-ownership in the UK. [27537]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to a healthy housing and mortgage market.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is conducting a wholesale review of mortgage regulation in the UK, the 'Mortgage Market Review'.

The Government believe that it is right for the FSA to ensure that the UK mortgage market has responsible lending practices. We will continue to work with the FSA, mortgage lenders and intermediaries, and consumer groups to ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants.

The FSA published 'Mortgage Market Review: Responsible Lending' in July, which sets out the details of some of the proposed changes. This paper forms one part of an ongoing consultation process.

The FSA has stated that it will fully assess the potential impact on the market before implementing any rule changes. Further, the FSA will consult in 2011 on transitional measures to help mitigate any adverse effects on existing borrowers.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Private Finance Initiative: Newton Abbot

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what schemes under the Private Finance Initiative there are in Newton Abbot constituency. [26022]

Danny Alexander: A list of signed and in procurement PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and whether it is on or off balance sheet; as used by the ONS in calculating public sector net debt. This indicates that there are currently no PFI projects in the Newton Abbot constituency.

Revenue and Customs: Marketing

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 274W, on incentives, from which of its budgets HM Revenue and Customs funds expenditure on promotional material; and how much has been spent from each such budget in each of the last three years. [27477]

Mr Gauke: In HMRC, promotional items may be printed paper, office supplies or non paper items. These items will have been purchased via a range of budgets including commodities such as print and paper/stationery. From these budgets promotional materials are not identifiable from other items and cannot be disaggregated except at disproportionate cost. No central record is held of the spend on promotional materials and is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Tax Yields

Mr Byrne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue his Department raised through *(a)* personal, *(b)* direct business, *(c)* consumption, *(d)* property and *(e)* environmental taxes from the (i) business services, (ii) education, health and social work, (iii) financial intermediation, (iv) manufacturing, (v) other wholesale and retail trade, (vi) transport services, (vii) construction, (viii) real estate and renting, (ix) public administration, (x) oil and gas extraction, (xi) insurance and pension funding, (xii) hotels and restaurants, (xiii) recreational and social activities, (xiv) postal and telecommunications, (xv) other services, (xvi) energy, gas and water supply, (xvii) agriculture, forestry and fishing and (xviii) mining and quarrying except oil and gas sector in each financial year since 1997-98. [22559]

Mr Gauke: The full breakdown of tax receipts outlined in the question is not available.

HMRC produce a breakdown by broad industrial sector for corporation tax, PAYE income tax and class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) and value added tax (VAT).

Historical figures for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors are regularly updated and published in table 11.1 on the HMRC National Statistics website. Receipts information is available from 1997-98 to 2009-10. The sectors are defined by HMRC's Summary Trade Classifications. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs received by HMRC in respect of employee and employer liabilities are split by sector as follows:

£ billion

Sector	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	664	630	598	617	676	730
Mining and Quarrying	701	762	675	673	654	669
Manufacturing	24,185	24,752	23,925	23,731	25,133	25,696
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1,225	1,229	1,118	1,089	1,098	1,135
Construction	6,981	7,597	8,200	8,974	10,164	10,751
Wholesale and Retail Trade	14,944	15,824	15,978	17,025	18,733	19,729
Hotels and Restaurants	2,314	2,457	2,558	2,806	3,200	3,450
Transport, Storage and Communication	8,779	9,801	10,139	10,104	10,912	11,939
Financial Intermediation	11,866	15,525	15,115	15,536	17,001	18,739
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	22,830	26,582	28,050	27,948	29,567	32,221
Public Administration and Defence	6,086	5,899	5,994	6,293	7,525	10,544
Education	11,441	12,442	13,206	14,105	16,274	17,498
Health and Social Work	8,648	9,035	9,659	10,845	12,959	14,598
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	4,060	4,527	4,747	5,026	5,691	6,169
Occupational Pensions	5,989	6,300	6,561	6,671	6,752	7,166
Other	645	1,384	2,385	1,920	1,547	1,676
Total	131,358	144,748	148,905	153,363	167,887	182,709

£ billion

Sector	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Accounting Adjustment	765	782	839	865	858
Sector	757	829	864	961	982
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	25,898	26,570	27,355	26,056	23,464
Mining and Quarrying	1,135	1,253	1,429	1,519	1,514
Manufacturing	11,575	12,428	14,236	13,779	11,896
Wholesale and Retail Trade	20,554	21,512	22,895	22,574	21,339
Construction	3,640	3,891	4,046	3,857	3,732
Wholesale and Retail Trade	12,676	12,826	13,125	13,062	12,289
Hotels and Restaurants	20,673	24,085	26,160	23,691	23,184
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	35,182	38,996	44,009	45,581	43,286
Public Administration and Defence	11,324	11,658	11,965	11,821	12,476
Real Estate, Renting and Business	18,456	19,422	20,133	20,487	20,747
Public Administration and Defence	16,167	17,454	17,735	18,385	19,530

Sector	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ billion* *2009-10*
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	6,585	7,025	7,344	7,531	7,257
Occupational Pensions	7,609	8,402	9,195	9,449	10,058
Other	1,627	352	-43	70	-263
Total	194,623	207,484	221,286	219,690	212,350

Data are available back to 1999-2000 only. The sectors are defined by the Office for National Statistics' Standard Industrial Classification 2003. The occupational pensions figures include all income tax on occupational pensions regardless of the sector in which the person was previously employed.

Declared VAT is published by trade group in the VAT factsheet, table 2-3:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

Given that sectors for corporation tax, VAT and PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs are defined differently these sets of figures are not directly comparable.

Taxation: Music

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax revenue was raised in respect of the UK-based music industry in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [27232]

Mr Gauke: The information required to answer the question is not available.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent assessment of the merits of tax incentives to encourage the development of UK musical talent. [27234]

Mr Gauke: The Government seek to provide a competitive environment and tax system for businesses and individuals across the economy.

The Government believe that simplicity and stability are features of good tax policy, and that in general a tax system with fewer reliefs and allowances will provide the best incentive for economic growth.

VAT: Churches

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will seek agreement from the Council of Ministers to zero-rate value added tax on repairs to historic church buildings. [27098]

Mr Gauke: EU legislation agreed by successive Governments does not provide any scope for the introduction of new zero rates or the extension of existing zero rates. There is therefore no realistic prospect of securing agreement to the introduction of a new zero rate for repairs to historic church buildings. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport operates a scheme which makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings primarily used for worship. The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will continue until 2014-15 with a fixed annual budget of £12 million.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed changes to rules under which new social housing can be constructed on the potential for small housing associations who do not construct new housing to amalgamate with other *(a)* large and *(b)* small housing associations; and if he will make a statement. [27097]

Grant Shapps: We continue to encourage housing associations to explore models for management or ownership rationalisation if this will deliver better value-for-money and improved services for tenants.

The Government do not have a fixed view about what size a Housing Association should be. There are excellent large and small Housing Associations in existence.

Localism Bill

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the Localism Bill. [27245]

Greg Clark: The Localism Bill contains a wide range of measures to shift power from central Government into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The Bill frees local government from central and regional control and strengthens local democracy. In addition, it gives greater power over planning, housing and other services and allows councils and councillors to be better held to account.

The Bill will be published imminently.

Housing: Construction

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of new houses which would need to be built in Southampton unitary authority area in each of the next five years in order for the authority to establish a net income gain under the terms of the New Homes Bonus scheme. [27192]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus will start in April 2011 and will match fund the additional council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use for the following six years, with an additional amount for affordable homes.

The Department has set aside almost £1 billion over the comprehensive spending review period for the scheme, including nearly £200 million in 2011-12 in year one. Funding beyond these levels will come from formula grant.

The New Homes Bonus consultation is available at;

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

This is accompanied by a calculator which will enable you to estimate grant from the New Homes Bonus for Southampton. This can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1767709.xls

We will announce our proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2011-12, in the usual manner, in due course.

Housing: Costs

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the average *(a)* cost of management charges, *(b)* cost of maintenance and *(c)* return on capital expenditure in respect of the housing stock in each sector in each region. [26690]

Andrew Stunell: The following table provides estimates of the average annual routine and planned maintenance costs per unit for social landlords, based on data provided to the Tenant Services Authority. Cost figures are derived from published financial statements, include only landlords managing more than 1,000 social homes and use end of year stock numbers to produce average costs. This information is not available on a regional basis.

				£'s per unit
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Routine maintenance costs	606	614	630	685
Planned maintenance costs	258	264	271	302
Management costs	731	779	844	893

There is no suitable measure with which to calculate the return on capital invested for this sector. This is because most social landlords are non-profit making organisations and the valuation of assets across the sector at both historical cost and current value prevents a valid aggregation of such measures.

The following table gives data on local authority expenditure on supervision and management and repairs, for council housing in 2007-08 and 2008-09 by region. This is taken from local authorities' annual second advance housing revenue account subsidy claim forms submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government. The regional split in the table is derived from the 'Live tables on housing finance and household expenditure, Table 652' available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housingfinance/livetables/

Average per dwelling (£)

	2007-08			*2008-09*		
	Supervision and management:			*Supervision and management:*		
	General	*Special*	*Repairs*	*General*	*Special*	*Repairs*
North East	624	364	753	653	401	790
North West	878	512	918	677	403	979
Yorkshire and the Humber	756	188	795	769	200	811
East Midlands	601	238	850	637	243	889
West Midlands	689	298	1,067	651	267	953
East	701	387	924	681	393	893
London	1,536	606	1,185	1,591	606	1,259
South East	859	414	1,032	719	363	933
South West	654	277	814	750	294	821
National Average	858	367	902	902	380	974

Notes:

General management includes expenditure on supervision and management of housing revenue account (HRA) property, eg policy and management, managing tenancies, rent collection and accounting.

Special services include services (mainly shared) to HRA tenants, eg caretaking, cleaning, communal lighting, lifts, communal heating, laundry services, concierge schemes, ground maintenance and welfare services (excluding essential care and other special services).

There is no suitable measure with which to calculate the return on capital invested for this sector.

Mortgages

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on financial assistance to first-time homebuyers who commit a large proportion of their income in mortgage payments in order to get on to the property ladder. [27541]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to helping those who aspire to own their own home, through ensuring a return to economic and financial stability. The Government are seeking to achieve this through a programme of debt reduction and a commitment to abolish the structural deficit in the life of this Parliament. This will help to keep mortgage interest rates low and improve credit availability.

The coalition agreement included a commitment to promote shared ownership. While grant funding under the new investment model for affordable housing announced in the spending review will primarily target the new affordable rented product, there may be some scope for delivery of low cost home ownership as part of the contractual arrangements with providers where this is appropriate for local circumstances.

Park Homes: Caravan Sites

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential park homes there are on licensed park home sites in each county. [27180]

Grant Shapps: These data are not collected.

The Department has made no official estimate on this, but soundings in the sector suggest there are approximately 85,000 park homes on 2,000 sites in England and 5,000 homes on 100 sites in Wales.

Poverty: Children

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure that local authorities are allocated the resources to meet their obligations under the Child Poverty Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [23042]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ending child poverty by 2020 and recognise the critical role of local authorities and other partners in achieving that aim. Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 introduced new duties for local partners to co-operate and carry out local child poverty needs assessments and develop joint child poverty strategies. In recognition of the potential costs of carrying out that work the Government have made an additional £9.5 million available this year to ensure local authorities have the resources to meet the local duties.

Funding will be provided for the remainder of this implementation year (2010-11) to support local authorities in England who are leading the co-operation around the duties. Payments will be distributed to all 'top-tier' local authorities via the area based grant and the first payments were made in October.

Squatting

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents of squatting were recorded *(a)* in Brighton and Hove constituency and *(b)* nationally in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, and (iii) 2009. [27236]

Grant Shapps: Information on the number of dwellings that are occupied by squatters is not held centrally.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of disputes in respect of tenancy deposit protection schemes resulted in a decision in favour of the tenant in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-9 and *(c)* 2009-10. [27750]

Grant Shapps: My Department does not hold this information. My hon. Friend may wish to contact the three companies running the tenancy deposit protection schemes directly.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce the number of *(a)* squatters and *(b)* unauthorised encampments. [27311]

Grant Shapps: In relation to squatting, on 8 November I published an online guide for home owners affected by squatters. This sets out their rights and the action they can take. We are also taking steps to help get empty homes back into productive and lawful use, thus reducing the scope for squatting.

In relation to Parliament square, I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 439.

In relation to unauthorised encampments, I refer my hon. Friend to the press notice of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) on 29 August 2010, a copy of which is in the Library. It outlines the new Government's approach of providing incentives and support for authorised Traveller sites, while removing the counter-productive regime of top-down planning and ensuring fair play in the planning system.

The forthcoming Localism Bill and changes to secondary legislation will include provisions to end the abuse of retrospective planning permission and will give councils stronger powers to tackle unauthorised development in all its forms.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the closure of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund on the most deprived communities in the country; and what sources of funding will be available to support such areas in the spending review period. [27456]

Robert Neill: The Working Neighbourhoods Fund was a time-limited, three year programme scheduled to run from 2009-11. In line with our equalities duties, an equality impact assessment into the completion of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund has been carried out and will be published in due course.

Businesses and local authorities in areas which currently receive the Fund will now be able to bid into the £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund to kick-start private sector-led growth, the Department for Work and Pensions is also to introduce the Work Programme which will provide an integrated package of support providing personalised help for people who find themselves out of work.

The Government are also giving communities and neighbourhoods new rights, flexibilities, powers and tools that they could use to drive forward local regeneration and growth, for example through de-ringfencing of local budgets, and introducing incentives through the New Homes Bonus to direct more money to councils that build houses. The hon. Member should be aware that as outlined in the March 2010 Budget, the last Government were planning in-year cuts to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

EDUCATION

Business: Education

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for the future of enterprise education in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [18817]

Mr Gibb: The Department currently has a contract with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) to run the Enterprise Network to support the extension of enterprise education from a secondary school focus to the primary and FE sectors. The network is made up of Enterprise Learning Partnerships (ELPs), each chaired by a head teacher with representatives on the Board from two secondary schools, two primary schools, a special school, a further education college and an employer. There are currently 54 ELPs covering 99.6% of local authority areas in England. To date, 7,002 primary schools have been involved in the Enterprise Network activities. Lead practitioners for each sector of education, including primary, have been identified in each region to share their ideas for enterprise education with their peers.

The contract with SSAT ends in March 2011. Beyond that date, we expect the ELPs to become self-sustaining without Government funding, ensuring a network of local and teacher-led groups to support enterprise education in schools, including primary schools.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding. [21515]

Tim Loughton: Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within the Department's spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required have yet to be finalised.

Free School Meals: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in each ward in Ealing Southall constituency are eligible for free school meals; and whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of those children in each such ward who are claiming free meals. [23576]

Mr Gibb: The Department collects information on the number of pupils who meet the free school meals criteria and make a claim. Information is not available on the number of pupils who may be eligible but do not make a claim.

The number of pupils known to be eligible and claiming for free school meals is shown in the table.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: School meal arrangements[4, 5]. As at January 2010—by each ward within Ealing Southall parliamentary constituency

Ward name	*Number on roll[4, 5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4, 5]*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Dormers Wells	2,224	721	32.4
Elthorne	2,358	526	22.3
Lady Margaret	943	211	22.4
Northfield	1,498	78	5.2
Norwood Green	1,674	501	29.9
Southall Broadway	2,448	598	24.4
Southall Green	2,105	690	32.8
Ealing Southall (all wards)	13,250	3,325	25.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] This term generally covers local authority maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies, however there are no city technology colleges or academies in this constituency.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 and under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15.
Source:
School Census

Kristallnacht: Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether the study of Kristallnacht is included in the curriculum at secondary school level; and if he will make a statement; [24890]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the inclusion of Kristallnacht in the curriculum at secondary school level; and if he will make a statement. [24891]

Mr Gibb: The teaching of the Holocaust is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum at secondary school level, but it is up to schools to determine whether the study of Kristallnacht should be included in this. As Kristallnacht was a key moment in the events leading up to the Holocaust, it is expected that most secondary schools would teach this.

The Department has provided funds, with the Pears Foundation, for a national programme of courses to help teachers address the concerns and issues they encounter when teaching about the Holocaust. Kristallnacht features prominently in one of the training activities for this programme.

The Secretary of State has not recently received any representations on the inclusion of Kristallnacht in the curriculum at secondary school level.

The Government are committed to reviewing the National Curriculum to restore it to its original purpose—a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. We plan to consult a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that our core curriculum can compare with those of the highest performing countries in the world. More details about our plans to review the curriculum will be announced later in the year. As part of the consultation process there will be a number of opportunities to contribute.

Pre-school Education: Special Educational Needs

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures are in place to identify pupils in pre-school education with special educational needs. [22918]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* We believe it is vital that children who have special educational needs and disabilities, including pre-school children, are identified as early as possible if they are to make the most of their education experience. There are currently provisions in place that impose legal requirements to identify, assess and make provision for these pre-school needs, for example through the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework. We want to strengthen the system so that all children are ready to engage in learning when they start formal schooling. The Tickell review is considering how young children's early learning should best be supported and the forthcoming Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disability will consider how we can achieve better educational outcomes and life chances for children and young people with special educational needs from the early years through to transition to adult life and employment.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children who attended *(a)* maintained primary schools, *(b)* Catholic maintained primary schools, *(c)* maintained secondary schools and *(d)* Catholic maintained secondary schools lived in (i) the 10% most deprived super output areas (SOAs), (ii) the 20% most deprived SOAs, (iii) the 30% most deprived SOAs and (iv) the 10% least deprived SOAs as measured by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index in the school year 2009-10. [24895]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Number of pupils resident in each IDACI decile attending maintained schools and maintained Catholic schools by phase of education—2010

	Primary[1]		*Secondary*[1, 2]	
IDACI[3] *decile of pupil residence*	*All schools*	*Catholic schools*	*All schools*	*Catholic schools*
0-10 % most deprived	584,313	75,460	377,687	52,831
10-20%	498,615	54,953	347,214	40,363
20-30 %	435,191	46,009	329,527	35,685
30-40 %	398,675	39,965	316,620	31,208
40-50 %	379,238	35,948	314,931	27,761
50-60 %	366,354	33,154	312,916	26,264
60-70 %	356,050	28,988	313,310	23,746
70-80 %	357,340	28,745	318,667	24,578
80-90 %	356,608	29,775	319,923	25,228
90-100 % least deprived	348,800	31,941	318,017	27,603

[1] Maintained schools only, includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Secondary includes academies and city technology colleges.
[3] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007.
Source:
School Census 2010

Schools: Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements his Department has made to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in schools in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [24889]

Mr Gibb: The Department funds the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project, which provides for two students (aged 16 to 18) from every school/sixth form college in England to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau. Many of the students who participate in the project will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day in their schools and local communities across the country.

Schools: Reading

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effects on attainment levels in reading and mathematics among the lowest achieving six and seven year olds of the Every Child a Reader programme; and if he will make a statement. [23201]

Mr Gibb: We regularly evaluate the progress of the programme against a range of management information. Evidence shows that Every Child a Reader has had a positive impact in raising the attainment of pupils in the programme, as well as indications of a positive whole-school effect.

All three Every Child programmes are currently undergoing robust independent evaluations, to report in late 2010 or early 2011, which will give a substantive view of the impact of the programmes.

Schools: Standards

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of educational standards in secondary schools in *(a)* South Thanet constituency and *(b)* England. [24585]

Mr Gibb: In 2009 (the most recent year for which constituency level data are available) 52.4% of pupils in maintained schools in South Thanet achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C or equivalent including English and maths, compared to 50.9% in England.

We remain concerned that almost half of young people are leaving compulsory education without meeting this standard. That is why we are reforming the school system to give schools more freedom and introducing the pupil premium to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of educational standards in primary schools in *(a)* South Thanet constituency and *(b)* England. [24586]

Mr Gibb: In 2009, the most recent year for which constituency level data are available, 62% of pupils in maintained schools in South Thanet achieved Level 4 or above in English and maths combined at Key Stage 2, compared to 72% in England.

We want all children, whatever their background, to achieve high standards in reading, writing and mathematics.

That is why we are introducing a pupil premium which will provide extra funding for those schools with the most challenging intakes.

Special Educational Needs: Children in Care

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of special educational needs among looked-after children. [22917]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* Just over half (52%) of looked after children have special educational needs (SEN). We are publishing a Green Paper which will set out how we will improve identification of and support for all children with SEN, including looked after children with SEN. All looked after children are required to have a care plan which is drawn up and reviewed by the local authority which looks after them. This overall plan must include a plan describing how the child's educational needs will be met and whether s/he has a statement.

Special Educational Needs: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers in Lancashire have a mandatory qualification in teaching deaf children; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in Lancashire who are deaf. [22810]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 15 November 2010]:* We do not routinely collect data regarding the number of British sign language qualified teachers teaching deaf children in mainstream schools either nationally or by region. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that teachers of hearing impaired and deaf children possess the appropriate mandatory qualification to undertake the role. It is a matter for local authorities to ensure that they have enough qualified teachers to meet their statutory commitments.

Regarding the estimate of the number of children in Lancashire who are deaf, these figures are available from the Statistical First Release 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2010'. This shows that there were 426 pupils in Lancashire at School Action Plus or with statements that had hearing impairment as a primary need and were being educated within the maintained sector or at special schools as at January 2010.

At the end of the year the Government plan to publish a Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities, which will explore how we can improve support for all children with special educational needs and disabilities, including those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

It is a priority to improve the educational outcomes for all children and we recognise the important role specialists, such as Teachers of the Deaf, play in meeting this goal.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward legislative proposals to incorporate the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into his Ministerial responsibilities. [21731]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Government are committed to the implementation of the United Nations convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC) and take their obligations to the convention seriously.

In March 2010, the previous Administration published an analysis setting out how legislation, policy and practice comply with the UNCRC. That analysis is being reviewed in order to assess how broader changes in legislation and policy align with the UNCRC and will decide if any further action is needed to give further effect to the convention.

World War II: Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has taken steps to promote *(a)* knowledge of and *(b)* interest in the 70th anniversary of the battle of Britain in schools; and if he will make a statement. [24888]

Mr Gibb: The battle of Britain was a significant event in the second world war; and the second world war is a compulsory subject in the secondary school curriculum. Schools determine whether to include the battle of Britain as part of their studies, and the Government believe that schools should be free to decide how best to mark the 70th anniversary of the battle of Britain.

Youth Services: Manpower

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many full-time equivalent youth support workers there are in each local authority area. [21377]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education does not collect these data. However, the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) published an audit of the workforce in December 2009 and this includes some national level estimates of the numbers of youth and community workers. The report is available on CWDC's website at:

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/young-peoples-workforce/state-of-the-young-peoples-workforce-report

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what services Atos is providing under contract to his Department; and whether he plans to renew his Department's contract with Atos in 2012. [26484]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows.

Medical Services

Following a competitive tender exercise the medical services agreement between Atos Healthcare and the Department for Work and Pensions was awarded on 15 March 2005 by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The contract went live on 1 September 2005, for a period of seven years, with options to extend for a further three and two years. On 1 November 2010 I awarded a contract extension to 31 August 2015 to facilitate the delivery of incapacity benefit reassessment. The new disability living allowance assessment service from 2013, is not included in the extension contractual arrangements but will be awarded through a competitive tendering process.

The scope of the medical services agreement is to provide medical advice to Department for Work and Pensions; Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; and Tribunals Service to support decisions in relation to a number of benefits and pensions, including but not limited to:

Incapacity benefits
Employment and support allowance
Industrial injuries disablement benefits
Disability living allowance (to be competed in 2013)
Attendance allowance
Statutory sick pay/statutory maternity pay
Child trust fund
War pension
Vaccine Damage Payment scheme
Financial Assistance scheme
Compensation Recovery scheme
Appeals tribunal service

Occupational Health

Following a competitive tender exercise the occupational health framework agreement between Atos Healthcare and the Department for Work and Pensions was awarded on 30 May 2008 by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

The framework agreement went live on 3 August 2008 and was for a period of three years, with an option to extend for a further two years. The Department for Work and Pensions is currently considering the option to extend.

The scope of the occupational health framework ensures the Department has access to professional occupational health guidance, enabling obligations under the Equality Act 2010 (especially in respect of disabled workers) to be fulfilled and also to prevent or resolve instances of sickness absence. Such guidance will normally be about the applicability of the Equality Act; the effect of illness on an employee's functional capability; and measures that can be taken to reduce the effects of illness on functional capability or to rehabilitate an employee from sick leave to work. Services available via the agreement include but are not limited to:

Attendance management support
Pre-employment health screening
Audiology screening
Absence related case conferences

Atos also provides IT services to the Department under the Stand Alone Support Services (SASA) Contract. That covers the provision of development, support, enhancement and consultancy services for mostly small scale DWP IT applications.

Children: Maintenance

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average difference between the amounts paid by clients of the Child Support Agency on the *(a)* pre-2002 and *(b)* post-2002 scheme. [24372]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the average difference between in amounts paid by clients of the Child Support Agency on the (a) pre-2002 and (b) post-2002 scheme. [24372]

The table shows average collections on cases administered under old scheme rules compared to average collections on cases administered under current scheme rules for each quarter.

Average collections have been calculated by dividing the total amount of maintenance collected and arranged under each scheme by the number of cases paying maintenance as at the end of each quarter.

Total collections and caseload figures include cases administered on the CS2 and CSCS computer systems as well as cases administered off system. However, the value of maintenance direct payments within the collections figure only include off system cases from April 2008.

Average collections and arrangements will be directly impacted by the average assessment value. The average assessment of Old Scheme cases is significantly lower than Current Scheme cases due to differences in policy between the schemes. The majority of cases in receipt of benefit on the Old Scheme are nil-assessed, whereas cases in receipt of benefit on the Current Scheme are given a weekly assessment of £5.00. 29% of cases on the Current Scheme have an assessment between £0.01 and £5.00, which significantly reduces the average assessment value.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Average monthly collections and arrangements by scheme

£

Month	*Average monthly collections/ arrangements old scheme*	*Average monthly collections/ arrangements current scheme*	*Difference*
December 2006	179	125	54
March 2007	184	129	55
June 2007	181	128	53
September 2007	186	135	51
December 2007	186	142	44
March 2008	192	142	50
June 2008	194	137	56
September 2008	199	142	57
December 2008	197	142	54
March 2009	200	138	62
June 2009	194	136	57
September 2009	195	137	59
December 2009	196	136	60
March 2010	184	135	48
June 2010	180	133	47

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest £1.
2. Figures include value of maintenance collected as well as value of maintenance direct arrangements.

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many assessed cases currently being dealt with by the Child Support Agency child maintenance liability is abated to take account of shared care arrangements; and what proportion of these cases are abated by *(a)* one seventh, *(b)* two sevenths, *(c)* three sevenths and *(d)* one half. [26442]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in how many assessed cases currently being dealt with by the Child Support Agency child maintenance liability is abated to take account of shared care arrangements; and what proportion of these cases are abated by (a) one seventh (b) two sevenths (c) three sevenths and (d) one half. [26442]

Information is not available on the value that maintenance assessments have been abated by when taking into account shared care arrangements.

Information is available on the number of nights each qualifying child on cases administered on the CSCS computer system spends with the parent with care. Information is also available on the number of current scheme cases administered on the CS2 computer system with a shared care arrangement in place. However, no robust information is available for old scheme cases administered on the CS2 computer system or for cases administered off system.

A shared care arrangement is defined for current scheme cases as those cases where the qualifying child or children spends at least 52 nights per year with the non-resident parent. As at September 2010 there were 145,500 such cases, which is 22% of the assessed caseload.

The table shows the number of cases administered on the CSCS computer system with a shared care arrangement in place. They are shown split by the number of nights spent with the parent with care for the qualifying child that spends the least nights with that parent.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: CSCS cases with a shared care arrangement: September 2010

Nights spent with parent with care per week	*Number of assessed cases*
2	100
3	1,200
4	6,400
5	14,600

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to nearest 100.
2. A case where the child spends one night per week with the parent with care is recorded on the CSCS computer system as 0 nights. Likewise, cases where the child spends six nights per week with the parent with care are recorded on the CSCS computer system as seven nights. These categories can therefore not be separated and are therefore not shown.
3. Management information on cases administered on the CSCS computer system records the number of nights each individual child spends with the parent with care. It is possible that the number of nights is different for children within the same case. Therefore, in the attached response, the child which spends the least number of nights with the parent with care has been used in the table.

Cold Weather Payments

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he made an estimate of the number of people with cancer who received the cold weather payment in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [27866]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Cold weather payments are paid automatically to people receiving pension credit and to those receiving certain income related benefits who are disabled, have a disabled child or a child under age five.

Departmental Contracts

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of quality management statements in assisting with contract decisions by his Department; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such statements on the prospects for small businesses winning contracts. [19014]

Chris Grayling: DWP, as part of its selection criteria, will assess a bidder's technical or professional ability, including quality management. As part of the tender evaluation process, procurement staff must include, within the published evaluation criteria, details of any weighting system used and how the tender will be scored with reference to quality management.

Bidders are required to describe what quality management measures they operate relevant to the bid specification. Where specific quality standards are required to meet technical contract requirements, bidders are permitted to provide evidence of equivalent or comparable processes or systems.

Evaluation criteria will clearly state the scoring attached to quality management and the minimum acceptable standard required to deliver the contract. Provided a bidder can demonstrate their capability to deliver a contract, there are no barriers that impact on the likely success of small businesses winning contracts.

Commercial activities in DWP are determined by EU procurement rules. One of the primary objectives of the European Union is the prevention of discrimination and restriction on the movement of goods or services. Any specification, even those not subject to the EU rules, must ensure that they comply with this objective. A member state or contracting authority, such as DWP, cannot adopt measures that are, even potentially, restrictive.

Sustainable procurement considerations ensure that opportunities for small businesses to bid for DWP contracts are maximised. Use of electronic procurement, division of requirements into local/regional lots and supplier briefings all help to improve access.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant fund; and to which organisations such grants have been made; [27862]

(2) what the monetary value was of grants awarded by his Department in 2009-10; and how much he expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [27865]

Chris Grayling: Grants made by the Department for Work and Pensions in 2009-10 and 2010-2011 are shown in the table.

				£ million
Description of grant	*Paid to*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]	*2010-11*[2]
Grants to support expenditure on Financial Inclusion	Credit Unions and Community Development Financial Institutions	18.0	4.6	7.9
Factory Support Grant	A range of businesses to support the employment of disabled people	0.5	—	0.2
Future Jobs Fund	Employers to create new jobs	82.5	274.9	420.0
Access to Work	Employers for adaptations to premises and equipment	1.1	0.8	1.7
Deprived Areas Fund	City Strategy Pathfinders and other partnership organisations	7.7	5.5	9.7
Ageing Well Grant	Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID)	0.5	0.7	1.7
Active at 60	Individuals, via the Community Development Foundation	—	—	1.0
Get Digital Project	The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education via the Department for Communities and Local Government	1.0	1.9	1.9
Sure Start Maternity Grants (SSMG)	Individuals	138.8	82.7	142.0
Community Care Grants (CCG)	Individuals	140.7	83.2	142.0

[1] To 31 October

[2] Full year forecast

Notes:

1. Factory Support Grant was a small scale aspect of Workstep intended to help improve specialist disability employment services by providing funding for supported businesses to, for example, buy new machinery or modernise the services they offer.

2. Current year figures are based on actual spend, as shown in the departmental general ledger, and forecasts which are subject to change.

3. For the purposes of this answer, grants are interpreted to be one-off payments to individuals or other entities to support the objectives of the Department. Payments which are on-going in nature, for example subsidies to local authorities for housing benefit administration, or grants in aid to non-departmental public bodies have not been included.

4. Funding for the Factory Support Grant, the Future Jobs Fund, and the Deprived Areas Fund have either already ended or will end this financial year.

5. The Department is now working through the financial implications of its spending review settlement and details are not available on future funding amounts for particular grants at present.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations sponsored by his Department have been revoked in the last six months. [24382]

Chris Grayling: The Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/ 875) were revoked by the Employment and Support Allowance (Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit) (Existing Awards) (Revocation) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1906)

The following regulations were revoked by the Equality Act 2010 (Disability) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2128):

The Disability Discrimination (Meaning of Disability) Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/1455)

The Disability Discrimination (Providers of Services) (Adjustment of Premises) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/3253)

The Disability Discrimination (Blind and Partially Sighted Persons) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/712)

The Disability Discrimination (Employment Field) (Leasehold Premises) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/153)

The Disability Discrimination (Educational Institutions) (Alteration of Leasehold Premises) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/1070)

The Disability Discrimination (Service Providers and Public Authorities Carrying Out Functions) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2901)

The Disability Discrimination (Private Clubs etc) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3258)

The Disability Discrimination (Premises) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/887).

The Vaccine Damage Payment (Specified Disease) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/2516) was revoked by the Vaccine Damage Payments (Specified Disease) (Revocation and Savings) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1988).

The Transfer of State Pensions and Benefits Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (SR (NI) 2007/286) were revoked by the Transfer of State Pensions and Benefits (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1825).

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children likely to be affected by the implementation of the proposed withdrawal of the mobility component of disability living allowance from claimants living in residential care. [24704]

Maria Miller: The spending review announced that the mobility component of disability living allowance would be removed from adults in residential care and children in residential schools.

Proposals for disability living allowance reform will be informed by responses to the consultation document which we will publish shortly.

We will be making clearer as we move towards the Bill exactly how the measure to cease paying mobility component of DLA to people in care homes will affect particular groups.

Employment Schemes

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many companies have expressed an interest in applying for contracts under the Work Programme. [26262]

Chris Grayling: 102 organisations, SPV or consortia submitted bids in respect of the DWP Framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services. A list of organisations that submitted bids can be found on the Supplying DWP website

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/

Those organisations that were accepted onto the framework were notified on 25 November and a list has also been published on the Supplying DWP website. Only those organisations that have been successful in being admitted to the framework as prime contractors will be invited to tender for Work Programme contracts. Organisations will only be able to bid in lots where they have been successful in the framework competition.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* assumptions and *(b)* calculations his Department made when formulating its estimate of the market value of Work Programme contracts contained in the framework agreement for the provision of employment-related support services. [26263]

Chris Grayling: Assumptions and calculations on the estimated value of Work Programme contracts and indeed other contracts which will be let from the framework, were developed from information on the value of existing welfare to work programmes. These took into account the intention to radically simplify the array of existing employment programmes and deliver coherent, integrated support more capable of dealing with complex and overlapping barriers to work. Estimates were broad in order to provide transparency to the market and to ensure that the framework would be able to meet requirements to be the principal vehicle for sourcing all employment related support services for the full life of the framework, not just for DWP, but also for other eligible contracting authorities. Calculations also took into account the need to deliver greater value for money on future welfare to work contracts.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to place any restrictions on sub-contracting within the procurement processes for the Work Programme. [26264]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to place any restrictions on sub-contracting within the procurement processes for the Work Programme. Evaluation of bids will, at least in part, depend on the quality of their supply chain.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the geographical areas are for contracting for each type of back-to-work provision; and what geographical areas there will be for contracts under the Work Programme. [26265]

Chris Grayling: The DWP Framework for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services will be divided into 11 geographical lots. The lots are: South East, South West, London, East of England, East Midlands, West Midlands, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, North East, Scotland, Wales. Contracts let under the framework may be across all lots, cover a specific lot or a smaller geographical area(s) within a lot.

Employment Schemes: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposed universal credit on work incentives in Scotland. [25774]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will make work pay. It will enable workers to retain more of their earnings when they enter work, providing stronger financial incentives to take job opportunities than under the current system.

Establishing a single withdrawal rate and eliminating the hours rules currently present in working tax credit has the potential to create a much more flexible labour market, where workers will be able to work the number of hours that most suits their needs and those of their employer.

The integration of in and out of work support through universal credit will also greatly reduce the risks people perceive around the continuity of financial support as they move into and leave work.

We expect the impacts in Scotland to be broadly the same as for Great Britain as a whole.

Housing Benefit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution by the Minister of State for Work and Pensions, the hon. Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb) of 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 154, on housing benefit, what the evidential basis was for his assessment of the change in private rents since November 2008. [26345]

Steve Webb: The source of the private rental data was the Find A Property index. This has been used by the DWP and wider Government since 2008, when CLG stopped producing their own private rental index. The Office for National Statistics does not publish up-to-date private rental data.

Further details of the evidential base are available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wpsc-analytical-supp.pdf

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of housing benefit payments of the implementation of his Department's decision to merge high rental and low rental areas; and if he will make a statement. [26379]

Steve Webb: We will be considering the areas in which local housing allowance rates are set in the context of our proposal to uprate local housing allowance rates according to the consumer price index from April 2013. We have not as yet made any decisions on the constitution of these areas.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the proposed changes to local housing allowance will apply to people who are part way through a tenancy which was signed prior to the changes coming into effect. [26632]

Steve Webb: Changes to local housing allowance rates apply to customers at the anniversary of their claim. The anniversary may coincide with the date they are due to renew a tenancy or it could fall part way through the tenancy. For existing customers who will be affected by changes to local housing allowance rates from April 2011, we are allowing an additional period of up to nine months from the anniversary of their claim during which they will be protected from a reduction in their local housing allowance rate. This will allow them extra time to renegotiate their rental commitment or, if necessary, look for alternative accommodation.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to issue further guidance to local authorities on the allocation of discretionary housing benefit. [26654]

Steve Webb: We are reviewing our discretionary housing payment good practice guidance to local authorities and plan to issue a revised version early next year.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to make exceptions to the proposed limits on payments of local housing allowance to claimants under 35 years to a shared room rate in respect of those with *(a)* learning difficulties and *(b)* mental health disorders. [26698]

Steve Webb: The shared room rate already has exemptions which will continue to apply for people in vulnerable situations. The exemptions include local authority and housing association tenants and those in certain supported accommodation.

Customers who receive the middle or higher rate care component of disability living allowance, and where no one gets a carer's allowance for them, are also exempt. We are currently considering the detailed design of this proposal, which is not due to be implemented until April 2012.

Housing Benefit: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working families in Newham are in receipt of housing benefit. [26489]

Steve Webb: The following table shows the number of housing benefit recipients in Newham which are non passported and in employment, August 2010.

Housing benefit recipients by family type and employment status in Newham, August 2010

	HB non passported	*Of which: In employment*
Single no child dependants	4,550	1,690
Single with child dependants	3,370	2,690
Couple no child dependants	800	410
Couple with child dependants	4,160	3,940
Total	12,880	8,730

Notes:

1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full-time, work more hours or earn more money.
3. Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and August 2010 is the latest available.
4. People claiming housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award.
5. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.

Source:

August 2010 Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Housing Benefit: North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on *(a)* the economy of the North East and *(b)* housing provision of planned reductions in the level of housing benefit and council tax benefit payments. [17752]

Steve Webb: Work is under way to ascertain the impacts of the proposed measures and we will publish an economic impact assessment at the time amendments to legislation are laid in Parliament.

Housing Benefit: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Worcester were in receipt of housing benefit of more than £400 per week in the latest period for which figures are available. [17631]

Steve Webb: At July 2010, for housing benefit claims in the private rented sector our records show that there are no households in Worcestershire receiving over £400 per week.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract for July 2010.

Industrial Accidents: Construction

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans the Government have to implement the recommendations of the Rita Donaghy report entitled One Death is too Many: inquiry into the Underlying Causes of Construction Fatal Accidents. [26399]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to addressing the heavy toll of deaths in the construction industry which was highlighted in Baroness Donaghy's report. We will therefore progress those of the Donaghy recommendations accepted by the previous Administration which we consider are supported by the available evidence. For example, consistent with recommendation eight of the Donaghy report, the Government have actively supported the new specification for "pre-qualification" criteria in the construction industry, introduced by the British Standards Institution in October and which has the potential to radically simplify the pre-qualification process for small firms tendering for construction work. Where, however, we lack firm evidence for particular recommendations—for example, that directors' health and safety duties need to be further strengthened—we do not propose to take further action at this time.

Industrial Health and Safety: Inspections

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the work of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE); and how many sites were formally inspected by a HSE inspector after a serious accident in the latest period for which figures are available. [26624]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State has the principal responsibility to Parliament for the Health and Safety Executive and routinely receives representations on their work. Recent representations are concerned with a range of matters relating to the formulation and development of Government policy.

HSE's inspectors have investigated 2,021 serious accidents that occurred between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010, although some of these investigations are still under way.

These serious accidents are categorised as fatalities and major injuries, such as amputations and fractures, that were reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95).

Jobcentre Plus: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department plans to give to those living in remote rural areas to *(a)* access jobcentres to see what vacancies are available and *(b)* access the labour market in areas with poor local transport. [26596]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what assistance his Department plans to give to those living in remote rural areas to (a) access jobcentres to see what vacancies are available and (b) access the labour market in areas with poor local transport. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is committed to providing all customers, including those in rural areas, with the help they need to find work as quickly as possible. We do this through a combination of the largest network of offices within Government, which is used primarily to provide face-to-face advice and guidance at the outset of the claim and at key stages thereafter; and alternative means of service delivery such as telephony and the Internet.

In terms of plans to help those in remote areas access vacancies, everyone receives information, advice and guidance at the new claims interview about how to make best use of appropriate vacancy sources. As part of this, people receive information about the Directgov Internet Job Bank and Jobseeker Direct (the Jobcentre Plus telephony-based vacancy matching service), both of which provide remote, fast and easy access to thousands of jobs. As a further development, we have also launched a new application for the iPhone and Google Android systems, which offers people an innovative way to search for a job through their telephone handset.

Looking ahead and in transforming our labour market services still further, we aim to provide a much improved, more efficient automated service to help employers post and fill vacancies and jobseekers access available jobs. As part of this, the intention is to extend the current job search facility to include vacancies from employer websites and other job boards; and to create secure customer profiles, which will be used to automatically notify employers of suitable applicants and individuals of suitable jobs.

In terms of helping people access the labour market in areas with poor local transport, Jobcentre Plus advisers will offer information, advice and guidance to claimants and provide access to measures such as the Travel to Interview Scheme to help with the cost of attending interviews. We also administer the Adviser Discretion Fund, which is used to help customers overcome small challenges preventing them from taking-up the offer of employment. In appropriate circumstances, the Fund can help with travel to work costs until receipt of first wages. All awards are at adviser discretion, taking into account individual customer circumstances and all awards must represent good value for taxpayer's money.

Following the coalition Government's announcement of a new, integrated work programme coupled with a more flexible Jobcentre Plus delivery model, we aim to build upon the discretionary funding currently available to give local managers the ability to tailor services to local and individual need. This could include the provision of more help to overcome travel costs and difficulties in appropriate locations.

Over and above the schemes administered directly by Jobcentre Plus, there are a number of agreements in place (nationally and locally) to provide people with discounted travel, for example, in England and Wales, we have an agreement with the Association of Train Operating Companies, which offers a 50% discount on rail travel for longer-term unemployed people. A similar scheme is in place with Scot Rail and while there is no UK wide discount scheme for bus travel, many local operators do offer discounted services to unemployed people.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fraud

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were prosecuted for offences relating to fraudulent claims for jobseeker's allowance in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency in each of the last three years. [22958]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Information on the numbers of people prosecuted for benefit fraud in Scotland for the last three years for all DWP administered benefits is available in the following table.

	Number prosecuted for benefit fraud in Scotland
2007-08	168
2008-09	139
2009-10	489

Notes:

Information extracted from the Fraud Referral and Intelligence Management Information System.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Hearing Impaired

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions are in place at Jobcentre Plus centres to assist jobseekers with hearing impairments; and whether interpreters are provided at each such location. [24953]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what provisions are in place at Jobcentre Plus centres to assist jobseekers with hearing impairments and whether interpreters are provided at each such location. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In Jobcentre Plus we recognise the diverse range of customers we serve and we are fully committed to providing equal accessibility and availability of services to all customers. Customers arriving in a Jobcentre are met by a Customer Services Manager who identifies the reason for their visit and who is able to direct them appropriately.

When a deaf or hard of hearing customer arrives at an office the Customer Services Manager takes the customer to the Customer Service Support Leader who will communicate with them at a desk set up with a hearing loop facility, if this is appropriate.

If the customer is profoundly deaf or cannot use a hearing aid, a member of staff who is British Sign Language (BSL) qualified will act as interpreter. If no qualified member of staff is available, we will arrange for a communicator, for example a BSL interpreter, lip speaker or deaf/blind interpreter as appropriate, to attend the office and book an appointment for the customer to return then.

If customers wish, they may bring their own interpreters. If a customer provides their own professional qualified interpreter, they can be reimbursed with reasonable travel costs. Customers often choose to bring friends and relatives to interpret.

If the customer attends the Jobcentre to look for work, touch screen Jobpoints are available in our offices to search for and access vacancies. Staff will support the customer in progressing any applications for work, for example, by making contact with the employer.

For customers with an appointment requiring an interpreter we currently have three contracted providers that provide BSL interpreters nationally.

Jobcentre Plus is committed to providing a first class service and ensuring we fully support our most vulnerable customers.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mobility Allowance: Children

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether the removal of mobility allowance for disabled children after 84 days in residential care will also apply to children in residential education settings; [24964]

(2) whether residential schools for disabled children will be classified as care homes for the purposes of the proposed changes to the mobility element of disability living allowance. [24965]

Maria Miller: The spending review announced that the mobility component of disability living allowance would be removed from adults in residential care and children in residential schools.

Proposals for disability living allowance reform will be informed by responses to the consultation document which we will publish shortly.

We will be making clearer as we move towards the Bill exactly how the measure to cease paying mobility component of DLA to people in care homes will affect particular groups.

Mortgage Payments

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to provide support to households with disabled residents who can no longer afford their mortgage payments as a result of changes to the rate of support for mortgage interest to fund alternative accommodation. [23663]

Steve Webb: We have no plans to increase the amount paid by way of support for mortgage interest, or to change the current standard interest rate for this group.

It was necessary for the Government to put support for mortgage interest on a more sustainable footing, and to better reflect mortgage costs, which is why we set the standard interest rate at a level equal to the Bank of England's published monthly average mortgage rate from 1 October. The rate is currently 3.63%. The previous rate of 6.08% was too generous and resulted in the vast majority of people getting more than their eligible mortgage interest liability, which was unfair to taxpayers. The plans of the previous Government would have meant that the standard interest rate would have reverted to a formula—the Bank of England base rate plus 1.58%—which, at present, would produce a rate of 2.08% from January 2011.

There are other funding streams available to households with disabled residents, for example, Disabled Facilities Grants and the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

Disabled Facilities Grants are provided by local authorities to help meet the cost of adapting a property for the needs of a disabled person. The Mortgage Rescue Scheme was introduced in 2009 to help people in priority need, including those who are vulnerable because of old age or a physical/mental impairment. The scheme involves a Housing Association taking on full or part ownership of the property being repossessed.

Poverty: Children

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* Bedford constituency were living in families with no parents in employment in October each year from 2000 to 2010. [26539]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many children in a) England b) East of England and c) Bedford Constituency were living in families with no parents in employment in October each year from 2000 to 2010. (26539)

The figures requested come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. These are currently available for 2004 to 2009. The attached table shows estimates for England and East of England for these years.

It is not possible to provide reliable estimates for Bedford constituency because of small sample sizes.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is captured in a confidence interval, defined by lower and upper bounds, such that the interval formed between the bounds would contain the true value of 95% of all possible samples.

Table: Children[1] living in families with no parent in employment in England and East of England

Thousand

	January to December	*Estimate*	*Lower bound*[2]	*Upper bound*[2]
England	2004	1,639	1,591	1,687
	2005	1,630	1,582	1,678
	2006	1,645	1,596	1,693
	2007	1,613	1,564	1,662
	2008	1,670	1,620	1,721
	2009	1,707	1,655	1,759
East of England	2004	126	111	141
	2005	124	109	140
	2006	128	112	144
	2007	130	114	147
	2008	141	123	158
	2009	133	115	150

[1] Children refers to children under 16.

[2] 95% confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95% certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bound.

Source:
APS household dataset

Private Finance Initiative Scheme

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's properties that are managed under a private finance initiative scheme are empty. [20810]

Chris Grayling: DWP does not have any empty properties managed under a private finance initiative.

Social Rented Housing: Reform

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the implications for the social rented housing market of his Department's welfare reforms. [18432]

Steve Webb: A number of discussions have been held between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government at both ministerial and official level. These discussions will continue as we develop our plans.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of civil service staffing resources which were allocated to the preparation of the White Paper on universal credit. [26249]

Chris Grayling: A number of civil servants in DWP and other Departments were involved in preparing the White Paper over a three-month period. The main work was done by members of the universal credit policy team in DWP which has a total of 20 staff.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* assumptions and *(b)* calculations his Department made when modelling the likely effects of the implementation of the universal credit; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each briefing document on these calculations provided to (i) Ministers and (ii) external bodies. [26250]

Chris Grayling: Chapter 7 of the recent White Paper, 'Universal Credit: Welfare That Works', and the accompanying impact assessment set out the assumptions and calculations used to model the effects of universal credit. The briefing documents provided to Ministers that covered these calculations are restricted policy development documents. The Department's Ministers and officials have had numerous discussions over recent months with external bodies on the Government's proposals for benefit reform.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding he plans to allocate to the implementation of the universal credit in 2011-12. [26260]

Chris Grayling: The Treasury has allocated £2 billion investment funding to the Department of Work and Pensions for universal credit over the spending review period. Plans on the allocation of funding are in development.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable he has put in place for the introduction of the universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [26631]

Chris Grayling: Introducing universal credit will be a very substantial exercise with around 19 million individual existing awards of benefits and tax credits becoming part of the new benefit. The provisional timetable is as follows, subject to detailed design work done in partnership with HMRC and local authorities. The current intention is to manage transition to universal credit in three stages:

> October 2013 to April 2014: all new claims for out of work support will be treated as claims to universal credit. No new jobseekers allowance, employment and support allowance, income support and housing benefit claims will be accepted. Customers transitioning from out of work benefits into work will move onto universal credit if they are eligible.
>
> April 2014: no new claims will be made to tax credits.
>
> April 2014 to October 2017: we would begin to work through transferring existing case to the new benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Adoption

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department provides financial support for adoptive parents who are classified as casual employees. [24148]

Maria Miller: Statutory adoption pay enables adopters to take a period of leave from work when a new child joins the family. It is paid by employers to employees who satisfy qualifying conditions based on length of employment and a minimum level of earnings. Casual employees may receive statutory adoption pay if they can satisfy the qualifying conditions.

Income support is available in certain circumstances. Single people who have a child placed with them prior to an adoption have access to income support. Once the adoption has taken place an adoptive parent can continue to receive income support if they fall within another prescribed group, for example if they are a lone parent or a carer. A parent may also be entitled to income support if they are taking leave from their employment under the parental leave provisions.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, on social security benefits: fraud, what the *(a)* monetary value was of the suspected fraud in the 550 warrant cases, *(b)* average monetary value per case was of suspected fraud and *(c)* monetary value was of the suspected fraud in each of the 10 cases where that value is highest; and what the dates of issue were of the 10 longest standing arrest warrants. [24549]

Chris Grayling: Of the 550 warrants held by the Department on 14 October 2010, information was held centrally on 188 cases. This number has now been reduced to 156 following the execution of 32 warrants. Information on the remaining 362 warrants not held centrally can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(a) The total monetary value of fraud in the 156 cases is £1,273,314.26.

(b) The average monetary value of fraud in the 156 cases is £8,162.27

(c) The monetary value in each of the 10 cases where that value is highest is shown in the following table.

10 highest value warrant cases

	£
1.	58,550.01
2.	55,494.13
3.	54,864.22
4.	53,319.36
5.	46,406.20
6.	39,906.59
7.	37,465.39
8.	33,735.64
9.	32,121.02
10.	28,253.76
Total	440,116.32

Source:
FRAIMS

Information on the dates of issue of the 10 longest standing arrest warrants is not available centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, on social security benefits: fraud, what benefits were involved in the suspected frauds; how many cases involved each type of benefit; and how many cases involved suspected acts of fraud relating to more than one type of benefit. [24550]

Chris Grayling: Information on the following is held but would incur disproportionate cost to collate:

(a) what benefits were involved in the suspected frauds,

(b) how many cases involved each type of benefit, and

(c) how many cases involved suspected acts of fraud relating to more than one type of benefit..

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, on social security benefits: fraud, how many of the defendants have convictions or police cautions for other offences. [24551]

Chris Grayling: The information on how many of the defendants have convictions or police cautions for other offences is held but can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, on social security benefits: fraud, what were the *(a)* names of the persons issued with arrest warrants, *(b)* their last known addresses or whereabouts and *(c)* the monetary value of the suspected fraud in each case. [24719]

Chris Grayling: The Data Protection Act 1998 and Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights provide no legal gateway to release information containing:

(a) names of the persons issued with arrest warrants

(b) their last known addresses or whereabouts.

Of the 550 warrants held by the Department on 14 October 2010, information is held centrally on 188 cases. Information on the remaining 362 cases is not held centrally, warrants having been issued prior to roll out of an IT case management system in November 2009.

The monetary value of the 362 cases is held but can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Of the 188 arrest warrants mentioned above, 32 have been executed since 14 October 2010, reducing the number to156, on which information is held centrally.

(c)The monetary value of the 156 cases can be found in the following table.

Number and monetary value of 156 warrant cases

Number	*Amount of overpaid benefit (£)*
1-13	0
14	77.95
15	259.28
16	328.29
17	409.50
18	429.66
19	517.07
20	587.88
21	776.81
22	841.44
23	854.62
24	862.30

Number and monetary value of 156 warrant cases

Number	*Amount of overpaid benefit (£)*
25	866.00
26	890.40
27	936.44
28	939.12
29	1,066.65
30	1,148.21
31	1,253.76
32	1,417.60
33	1,483.54
34	1,548.10
35	1,617.01
36	1,711.84
37	1,817.75
38	1,831.06
39	1,847.75
40	1,968.29
41	2,005.51
42	2,028.74
43	2,110.33
44	2,124.84
45	2,158.64
46	2,203.43
47	2,207.51
48	2,209.20
49	2,249.04
50	2,314.50
51	2,323.34
52	2,428.39
53	2,429.41
54	2,431.22
55	2,478.56
56	2,533.40
57	2,674.32
58	2,816.69
59	2,867.64
60	2,917.10
61	2,962.23
62	2,976.41
63	2,995.07
64	3,014.35
65	3,265.20
66	3,311.41
67	3,342.81
68	3,389.50
69	3,473.29
70	3,536.55
71	3,598.53
72	3,632.38
73	3,662.47
74	3,678.02
75	3,821.10
76	3,840.90
77	3,845.21
78	3,860.88
79	3,924.65
80	4,036.68
81	4,131.49
82	4,234.76
83	4,367.23
84	4,396.97
85	4,422.05
86	4,430.69
87	4,765.10
88	4,815.42
89	4,927.90
90	4,928.80
91	5,461.84
92	5,463.05
93	5,512.54
94	5,599.80
95	5,711.28
96	6,011.93
97	6,116.89
98	6,120.89
99	6,487.05
100	6,487.53
101	6,859.82
102	7,017.09
103	7,150.94
104	7,201.96
105	7,356.10
106	7,674.28
107	7,815.00
108	7,829.00
109	7,972.47
110	8,034.17
111	8,267.87
112	8,336.33
113	8,406.11
114	8,489.62
115	9,038.97
116	9,081.42
117	9,575.76
118	9,768.85
119	9,931.33
120	10,349.52
121	10,421.42
122	10,540.63
123	11,261.49
124	12,110.54
125	12,175.86
126	12,387.59
127	12,620.73
128	12,819.05
129	13,015.24
130	13,893.95
131	14,007.92
132	14,140.00
133	15,339.59
134	15,353.00
135	16,105.99
136	16,332.74
137	17,146.00
138	17,225.54
139	17,820.01
140	18,368.30
141	19,481.46
142	20,816.00
143	21,049.35
144	21,239.32
145	25,286.04
146	25,722.59
147	28,253.76
148	32,121.02

Number and monetary value of 156 warrant cases

Number	*Amount of overpaid benefit (£)*
149	33,735.64
150	37,465.39
151	39,906.59
152	46,406.20
153	53,319.36
154	54,864.22
155	55,494.13
156	58,550.01

Source:

FRAIMS

The Department will instigate criminal proceedings irrespective of the amount of overpayment where it is in the public interest to do so. For example, an attempt by a fraudster to falsely obtain a national insurance number to gain access to the benefit system may have criminal proceedings instigated against them whether or not there was an overpayment.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, on social security benefits: fraud, what steps are being taken to recover the suspected fraud identified in the cases; what steps he plans to take to recover from them the legal and other costs of pursuing those cases; what estimate he made of the cost to the public purse of taking legal and other action to pursue those cases; and what steps are being taken to arrest the persons concerned in the 550 cases. [24720]

Chris Grayling: Once a decision has been made that an overpayment is recoverable the steps taken to effect recovery include deductions from ongoing benefits, instalments, a lump sum or through the courts. Overpayments are not written off if the debtor cannot be immediately located. Comprehensive efforts are made to trace debtors and debts may be pursued over a considerable period of time.

The Department seeks prosecution costs awards in all cases: it is not limited to those dealt with by warrant. Standard costs are £100.00 in guilty plea and £250.00 in not guilty plea cases heard in the magistrates courts. In the Crown court, applications for prosecution costs start at £350.00 and rise substantially depending on the seriousness, complexity and plea entered. Decisions to award prosecution costs are made by presiding magistrates or judges on a case by case basis.

Information is not available of the cost to the public purse of taking legal and other action to pursue the 550 cases.

The Department has nominated staff whose duties include checking all outstanding warrants every month against departmental records and informing the warrant holder, who is normally either based at the local police or court, of changes and requesting immediate execution of warrants. The responsibility to arrest rests with the police.

Social Security Benefits: Reform

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the evidential basis is for the estimate in his Department's White Paper on welfare reform that his proposed benefit reforms will take 300,000 people out of poverty; and over what period he expects this to be achieved. [26169]

Chris Grayling: We expect that by the time it is fully implemented, universal credit will have moved 350,000 children and 500,000 working-age adults out of poverty, due to increased benefit entitlement and improved take-up rates. This is estimated using the Department's policy simulation model. These poverty impacts do not take any account of any positive impacts of more people moving into work.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will no longer be in poverty in *(a)* Haslingden and *(b)* Hyndburn as a result of implementation of his proposed reforms to the welfare system. [26170]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available for the geographical areas requested.

We estimate that for Great Britain, by the time it is fully implemented, the impact of universal credit will be a net poverty reduction of 350,000 children and 500,000 working-age adults.

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to have their *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance withdrawn as a result of implementation of the proposals in his Department's White Paper on welfare reform. [26189]

Chris Grayling: No one will experience a reduction in the benefit they are receiving as a result of the introduction of universal credit. At the point of transition onto the new system, those households whose circumstances remain unchanged and who would otherwise experience a reduction in income will receive cash protection to make up the difference.

Universal Credit: Welfare

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 14 of his White Paper entitled Universal Credit: welfare that works, when he plans to set out proposals for a new system of financial sanctions to provide greater incentives for people to meet their responsibilities. [24900]

Chris Grayling: Our current proposals for financial sanctions are set out in chapter three of our White Paper, 'Universal Credit: welfare that works'.

Universal credit will make sure that work pays. In return, claimants can reasonably be expected to look for and prepare for work.

We also believe that it is fair to ask some claimants to do more to find work in return for receiving current benefits and ahead of the introduction of universal credit we intend to increase the level of labour market conditionality applied to some claimants; introduce a claimant commitment to ensure claimants fully understand what is expected of them; improve the sanctions regime so that it more effectively encourages claimants to meet their responsibilities; and introduce full-time mandatory work activity.

These changes will form the basis of the labour market conditionality and sanctions system under universal credit.

Those measures that require primary legislation will form part of the Welfare Reform Bill to be introduced in the new year.

Vacancies: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of vacancies for *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment in Peterborough city council area on (i) 1 April 2008, (ii) 1 April 2009, (iii) 1 April 2010 and (iv) 1 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [21162]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is in the following tables.

The figures provided relate just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and, as such, represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies and not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus, are available from the ONS Vacancy Survey. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

August 2010 is the most recent available data.

Number of notified vacancies for the months of April 2008, April 2009, April 2010 and August 2010: Peterborough local authority

Date	*Full-time vacancies*	*Part-time vacancies*
April 2008	973	198
April 2009	608	228
April 2010	1,113	278
August 2010	1,451	420

Number of live unfilled vacancies for the months of April 2008, April 2009, April 2010 and August 2010: Peterborough local authority

Date	*Full-time vacancies*	*Part-time vacancies*
April 2008	1,336	221
April 2009	500	146
April 2010	813	252
August 2010	918	419

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Asbestos: Employers' Liability

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that those with asbestos-related illnesses are eligible to claim on employers' insurance if the exposure to asbestos occurred while at work. [24113]

Chris Grayling: The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 requires employers carrying on business in Great Britain to insure their liability to their employees for bodily injury or disease sustained in the course of their employment. This Act ensures that those with asbestos-related diseases can claim compensation against their employers' liability insurance, where the employer has been negligent in exposing them to asbestos while at work.

However, a recent Court of Appeal case has considered how the wording of these employers' liability insurance policies affects civil compensation for mesothelioma sufferers and we had hoped that the judgment would have provided a general principle on how these policies should deal with their mesothelioma claims. The court decided that the policies should be interpreted based on the actual policy wording, which means that some sufferers may not be able to claim compensation if the insurance policy was worded in such a way that prevents a claim from being made. We expect this judgment to be appealed to the Supreme Court.

In February 2010 the previous Government published their consultation document, 'Accessing Compensation—Supporting people who need to trace employers' liability insurance', which set out proposals for people who need to find their employers' liability insurance policies in order to claim compensation. The consultation closed on 5 May 2010. There were two proposals; firstly an Employers' Liability Tracing Office, that would manage a database of EL policies. Secondly, an Employers' Liability Insurance Bureau which would be a compensation fund of last resort for those individuals who are unable to trace EL insurance records, ensuring they are able to receive compensation for injuries or diseases sustained during the course of their employment. We are in active discussions with all stakeholders on how this situation can be addressed and we will publish our response to the consultation in due course.

CABINET OFFICE

Banks: Finance

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Office for National Statistics calculation of public sector net debt takes account of the recapitalisation of banks. [27859]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

Big Society Bank

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office by what date he expects the Big Society Bank to *(a)* be established and *(b)* commence distributing funds. [27275]

Mr Hurd: The Government aim to have some functions of the Big Society Bank in place by April, then building towards a fully operational Bank. It will be ready to make initial investments by early summer, which is when we expect the first dormant accounts money will become available.

Charity Commission

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the proposed changes to the operation of the Charity Commission; and if he will make a statement. [26453]

Mr Hurd: The Charity Commission, like some Government Departments, is facing tough decisions about its future priorities following the spending review. It is undertaking a strategic review to focus on the key priorities for its future work, including seeking the views of the public and other stakeholders. In addition, the statutory review of the Charities Act 2006 which is due to take place in 2011 will consider potential changes to the legislative framework for charities and the Charity Commission.

The Charity Commission's strategic review is currently under way and it would be premature to speculate on the outcome, but I am confident that the Charity Commission can be an effective regulator of charities in England and Wales within the resources allocated in its spending review settlement.

Community Organisers

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what roles and responsibilities the proposed community organisers will have; and what mechanisms he plans to put in place to monitor and assess their effectiveness. [27300]

Mr Hurd: Community organisers will act as a catalyst for more social action, supporting all parts of the community (including under-represented and disadvantaged groups and individuals), to express their needs and issues, as well as identify opportunities and resources. Through supporting communities to take action, they will:

(a) Build capacity of the community they serve by helping the community take action on the issues that matter most to them;

(b) Help the community challenge vested interests and drive change in public and private sector organisations and in the community;

(c) Build self-reliance, individual and collective responsibility;

(d) Encourage diverse people to work with others to improve the quality of life locally;

(e) Identify local leaders who can carry forward actions;

(f) Support and link new and existing neighbourhood groups (thereby supporting the activity of the Community First programme, a targeted grants programme, currently under development).

The Office for Civil Society is currently procuring a national partner to further develop, manage and implement the community organisers programme at arms length from Government. This ensures that community organisers will be accountable to the national partner, while remaining free from political influence.

The effectiveness of the community organisers will also be measured by the success they have in enabling the communities to take successful actions for change, on the priorities that the communities have identified. Community organisers will be accountable to the community they are supporting as well as any institutions which support them.

Deaths: Winter

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on responsibility for steps to prevent excess winter deaths. [26283]

Mr Maude: Officials from all key Departments are in regular contact on a wide range of winter resilience issues, including steps to reduce the number of excess deaths over the winter period.

Emergencies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on his Department's civil contingencies programmes. [26629]

Mr Maude: The Government's plans for changes in the United Kingdom's civil contingencies programmes, within the resources available through the 2010 spending review, are set out in chapter 4 of the strategic defence and security review published on 19 October.

The need for resilience to all kinds of emergency is identified in the National Security Strategy as a priority task. The role of the Cabinet Office is to co-ordinate Government-wide resilience planning and programmes, and will continue therefore to be an important task for the Department.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on attendance at the 2010 FIFA World cup. [26151]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office did not spend any money on attendance at the 2010 FIFA World cup.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry: Public Appointments

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what skills and experience were identified as being required for the role of Secretary to the Iraq Inquiry; how many candidates were identified as having such skills and experience; and on what basis the successful candidate was selected; [26897]

(2) what steps were taken in the process of appointment of the Secretary to the Iraq Inquiry *(a)* to identify potential conflicts of interest and *(b)* to ensure that any such conflicts did not affect the independence of the inquiry. [26898]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Secretary decided to nominate the Secretary to the Iraq Inquiry and agreed the appointment with the Chairman of the Inquiry. Both the Cabinet Secretary and the Chairman of the Inquiry agreed that the Secretary to the Inquiry should be a senior individual in the civil service ideally with previous involvement in Iraq issues.

The Chairman of the Inquiry has told the Cabinet Secretary that, in agreeing to the appointment, he was aware of the candidate's role in the Foreign and Defence Policy (formerly the Defence and Overseas Policy) Secretariat in the Cabinet Office from November 2004, and, given the professional standards of the senior civil service, saw no potential conflict of interest with her appointment as Secretary to the Inquiry that would, in his view, affect the independence of the Inquiry.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of his Department's human resources procedures were followed in the selection of the *(a)* secretary and *(b)* press secretary to the Iraq Inquiry. [26899]

Mr Hurd: The roles were filled by applying the managed move policy in accordance with the Cabinet Office human resources procedures.

National Citizen Service

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on what dates Ministers in the Cabinet Office have met Lord Wei to discuss the National Citizen Service. [27274]

Mr Hurd: Ministers in the Cabinet Office meet with Lord Wei frequently to discuss many subjects in his capacity as Government adviser on Big Society, including National Citizen Service (NCS). Information relating to internal discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has for the role of the National Citizen Service in providing public services; and what plans he has to monitor and assess the service's performance in that role. [27299]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service (NCS) is a scheme to help young people to serve their communities and to develop personally. It is not envisaged that NCS will be used to provide public services, although as part of their summer NCS experience there may be opportunities for young people to volunteer with, and learn more about, public service providers in their area.

An independent evaluation will be conducted to assess the impact of National Citizen Service during the pilot phase.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what procurement process his Department undertook for the pilots of the National Citizen Service. [27450]

Mr Hurd: Cabinet Office conducted a fully open and competitive process to select the providers of 2011 National Citizen Service (NCS) pilots. This involved a public invitation of expressions of interest from any organisation or group of organisations interested in running NCS pilots in 2011, followed by the invitation of full proposals from organisations and consortiums shortlisted at the expression of interest stage.

Third Sector: Finance

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the effectiveness of the transition fund for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises. [27302]

Mr Hurd: The transition fund is a significant fund that will provide much needed and immediate support for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises to help them take on an even bigger role in this country in the medium to long term. Our key aim is to make this support available quickly, so that organisations can make the necessary changes to make the transition to a tighter funding environment and take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Big Society. The Office for Civil Society has worked with the fund manager, BIG Fund, to develop arrangements for monitoring the outcomes achieved by successful applicants.

The transition fund was launched on 30 November and is open for applications until 21 January 2011.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential contribution to the Big Society initiative of proposed changes in his Department's funding of community groups and charities. [27445]

Mr Hurd: Civil Society cannot be immune from the need to reduce the deficit, but the allocation of around £470 million to the Office for Civil Society within the Cabinet Office budget shows our support in very tight circumstances.

Charities, communities and social enterprises have a tremendous role to play in building the Big Society, through their ability to galvanise community action, provide better public services and represent and empower communities. We will use our settlement to support them in this work, making it easier to set up and run a charity or social enterprise, and easier for such organisations to access finance and work with the state.

While Big Society opens up many opportunities for the sector, we recognise however that the sector is exposed during the transitional period leading up to them, and so the spending review settlement therefore includes a £100 million transition fund for the sector in England. Funding for Charities and community Groups outside England is largely a matter for devolved administrations.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* community groups and *(b)* charities of changes to their funding as a result of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [27451]

Mr Hurd: It is currently too early to evaluate the impact of the comprehensive spending review on *(a)* community groups and *(b)* charities. However the Cabinet Office has worked with partners in the sector, across Government and the Third Sector Research Centre to examine the exposure of the sector to public spending reductions and to mitigate potential impacts.

The Big Society presents a great opportunity for voluntary and community groups, as we open up public services and devolve power; and the Government are therefore committed to supporting the sector through this transitional period. This includes: a £100 million transition fund to help organisations with shortfalls in the short-term; publishing evidence and best practice to support government at all levels to make cuts wisely and in partnership with the sector; and, setting out policy measures to open up new sources of funding and help the sector maximise new opportunities in the strategy document 'Building a Stronger Civil Society'.

Funding for charities and community groups outside England is largely a matter for devolved Administrations.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if he will make it his policy that guidance on answering round robin questions produced by his

Department in respect of questions tabled in *(a)* the House of Lords and *(b)* House of Commons is circulated to departments within three days of the question being tabled; and if he will make a statement; [26648]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of questions to Government tabled in the House of Lords that remain unanswered after 10 working days as a result of the timing of circulation of guidance on answering round robins; what recent representations he has received from Cabinet colleagues about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [26649]

Mr Maude: All Ministers are responsible and accountable for the answers given to parliamentary questions within specified deadlines. In the case of questions that are deemed to be "round robin", The Guide to Parliamentary Work, published by the Leader of the House of Commons

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/government-business/parliamentary-business.aspx

states that Departments should not delay preparing an answer until "round robin" advice is provided, and should not miss the target deadlines for this reason.

HEALTH

Answers received for publication on Monday 29 November 2010.

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 18 to 24 years and *(b)* 25 to 30 years in each strategic health authority area who had had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five, (vi) six, (vii) seven, (viii) eight, (ix) nine and (x) 10 or more previous abortions had an abortion in 2009. [26652]

Anne Milton: Information on previous abortions by age group and strategic health authority in 2009 is shown in the following table. The data have been provided for age groups 25 to 29 years for consistency with data published in the Department's statistical bulletin. Information on previous abortions is extracted from the HSA4 abortion notification forms submitted to the chief medical officer (CMO). These data show the total number of abortions notified to CMO and not data for individual women as more than one form may be received for a woman in a calendar year.

Abortions by age group, strategic health authority and number of previous abortions, residents of England and Wales, 2009

		Age group	
Strategic health authority	*Number of previous abortions*	*18-24*	*25-29*
England and Wales	0	55,086	23,817
	1	17,746	12,392
	2		3,262
	3		828
	4		242
	5		70
	6 or more		—
	Total	76,900	40,634
East of England	0	4,616	1,969
	1	1,434	1,020
	2	—	277
	3 or more	—	98
	Total	6,383	3,364
East Midlands	0	3,898	1,485
	1	1,021	660
	2	—	164
	3 or more	—	57
	Total	5,121	2,366
London	0	10,691	6,505
	1	4,556	3,662
	2	—	1,103
	3 or more	—	462
	Total	16,555	11,732
North East	0	2,490	883
	1	630	415
	2	—	102
	3 or more	—	28
	Total	3,230	1,428
North West	0	8,070	3,078
	1	2,467	1,530
	2	—	353
	3 or more	—	108
	Total	11,016	5,069
South Central	0	3,190	1,392
	1	993	631
	2	—	176
	3 or more	—	53
	Total	4,402	2,252
South East	0	3,671	1,429
	1	1,212	865
	2	—	219
	3 or more	—	81
	Total	5,172	2,594
South West	0	4,209	1,520
	1	1,096	702
	2	—	144
	3 or more	—	44
	Total	5,520	2,410

Abortions by age group, strategic health authority and number of previous abortions, residents of England and Wales, 2009

Strategic health authority	Number of previous abortions	Age group 18-24	25-29
West Midlands	0	6,028	2,361
	1	2,044	1,303
	2	—	354
	3 or more	—	95
	Total	8,546	4,113
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	5,295	2,045
	1	1,527	1,065
	2	—	258
	3 or more	—	95
	Total	7,101	3,463
Wales	0	2,928	1,150
	1	766	539
	2	—	112
	3 or more	—	42
	Total	3,854	1,843

'—' = Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and 9) or where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value when used with previously published tables. This is in line with Office for National Statistics guidance for the release of abortion statistics 2005.

Abortion: Marriage

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women who had an abortion in 2009 were married at the time of the abortion; what the modal *(a)* age of the women, *(b)* length gestation of the pregnancy, *(c)* number of previous children born to the women and *(d)* number of previous abortions undergone by the women was; and what the most common legal grounds was under which such abortions were performed. [26413]

Anne Milton: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Most likely[1] conditions for married women[2] having abortions in 2009, residents of England and Wales

	Total abortions to married women	Age	Gestation weeks	Number of previous children	Number of previous abortions	Ground
England and Wales	[3]26,971	29	7	2	0	C

[1] Statistical mode (highest frequency).

[2] Includes civil partnership.

[3] 15% of total abortions.

Note:

Ground C: that the pregnancy has not exceeded its twenty-fourth week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk: greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated in the accident and emergency department in *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich and *(c)* Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough in each of the last five years. [26266]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected in the format requested. The information that is available is shown in the following table.

Attendances at accident and emergency departments, 2005-06 to 2009-10

Org name	First attendances 2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	82,418	86,132	84,202	84,162	—
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	98,280	98,798	99,534	98,224	—
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	71,241	71,802	74,060	80,273	—
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	274,634

Notes:

1. Data is provided by NHS Trust.
2. Data provided are first attendances at the trusts A&E departments.

Source:

Department of Health form Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency

Barnet General Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the running costs of Barnet General Hospital was paid to the private finance initiative provider in each year from 2005 to 2009; and if he will estimate the proportion to be paid to the private finance initiative provider in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [26643]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data for net operating expenses for Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals National Health Service Trust in respect of its private finance initiative (PFI) scheme are set out in the following table.

Data are not held centrally for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust: Proportion of total operating expenses relating to PFI

	Percentage of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI
2005-06	5.5
2006-07	4.8
2007-08	4.0
2008-09	3.6
2009-10	3.3

Notes:

1. The source of the data is the audited summarisation schedules of the trust for 2005-06 to 2009-10.
2. The percentages provided represent the net operating expenses in respect of PFI schemes as a proportion of total operating expenses.
3. 2005-06 to 2008-09 figures compiled under UK generally accepted accounting practice.
4. 2009-10 accounts were compiled under international finance reporting standards.

Basophobia: NHS

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what treatments for basophobia are available on the NHS; whether he expects new treatments to be available in the next two years; and if he will make a statement; [26493]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to increase the standard of healthcare for people diagnosed with basophobia since 1990; and if he will make a statement; [26494]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group in each health authority area who were diagnosed with basophobia in each of the last three years; [26495]

(4) whether his Department has commissioned research into *(a)* basophobia and *(b)* conditions related to basophobia in the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [26496]

(5) whether his Department has commissioned research into the *(a)* causes and *(b)* prevention of basophobia since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [26497]

Paul Burstow: Basophobia, a fear of falling, is one of a large number of specific phobias that generally respond well to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) although it is important that physical health issues that might make someone more likely to fall, such as low blood pressure, are checked out before psychological treatment is started. CBT is now increasingly available on the national health service as a result of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme which began in 2008 and is about half-way through its nationwide roll-out. The Chancellor announced further funding in the spending review to complete this roll-out by 2014-15. These local psychological therapies services, which are delivered in primary care, are ideal for patients with specific phobias like basophobia because of the ease with which therapists can link with the patient's general practitioner.

With regard to research into the condition, the usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available.

British Medical Association: Competition

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from the *(a)* British Medical Association, *(b)* Royal College of Nursing and *(c)* Royal Colleges on competition in the provision of health services. [26533]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department received over 6000 responses to the White Paper consultation and these are being considered carefully. The Government's response will be published in due course.

The British Medical Association, Royal College of Nursing and other Royal Colleges responded to Government's consultation document: "Liberating the NHS: Regulating healthcare providers". A copy of the consultation document has already been placed in the Library.

Details of their responses to consultation can be found at:

British Medical Association:

www.bma.org.uk/healthcare_policy/nhs_white_paper/consultationpaperswp.jsp

Royal College of General Practitioners:

www.rcgp.org.uk/policy/liberating_the_nhs.aspx

Royal College of Midwives:

www.rcm.org.uk/college/policy-practice/consultations/past-consultations/nhs-white-paper-consultations/

Royal College of Psychiatrists:

www.rcpsych.ac.uk/policy/policyandparliamentary/projects/live/whitepaper.aspx

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the average waiting time to see a cancer specialist in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [26526]

(2) what the average waiting time to see a cancer specialist was in each primary care trust area in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [26527]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no projections of performance for the all cancer two week wait and does not hold information on average waiting times for these services. In the most recent period for which statistics are available (Quarter 1 2010-11) 95.5% of patients urgently referred with suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP) were seen within two weeks.

Statistics on average waiting times for cancer services are not collected centrally. However, primary care trust (PCT) based performance statistics for the all cancer two week wait were published for the first time in September this year and can be found at the following link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_119478

The most recent statistics available are for the year 2009-10 and show that between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 94.9% of patients urgently referred by their GP with suspected cancer were first seen by a specialist within two weeks. Information on the number of patients urgently referred by their GP with suspected cancer who were first seen by a specialist within two weeks, broken down by PCT in England, has been placed in the Library.

Cataracts: Surgery

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to widen choice for patients undergoing cataract surgery in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [26281]

Mr Simon Burns: We are committed to extending choice for all national health service patients and service users, including those who are referred for elective care such as cataract treatment. We are currently consulting on proposals for giving patients and service users greater choice and control over their care and we will publish our response along with more detailed policy proposals early next year.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department made an estimate of the effect on the number of *(a)* emergency hospital admissions and *(b)* inpatient bed days of increasing the rate of early diagnosis for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [26125]

Mr Simon Burns: The consultation on a strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, published earlier this year, included publication of an impact assessment which included estimates of the impact of the strategy as a whole on the numbers and costs of emergency hospital admissions. No explicit estimates were made relating to in-patient bed days, or to the specific impact of improving the rate of early diagnosis of the disease. The consultation documents have already been placed in the Library, and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_112977

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the stage of disease at which chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is most frequently diagnosed; and whether his Department holds information for benchmarking purposes on the diagnosis of that disease in other EU member states. [26128]

Mr Simon Burns: The information the Department holds on the stage at which chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is diagnosed was published as part of the Department's consultation on a strategy for services for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in England and is included in the consultation impact assessment. The consultation documents have already been placed in the Library and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_112977

The Department does not hold information for benchmarking purposes on the stage of diagnosis in other European Union member states.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what penalties may be imposed on NHS hospital trusts which fail to meet his Department's targets for reducing the incidence of clostridium difficile. [26395]

Mr Simon Burns: Poor performance in relation to clostridium difficile is covered within the NHS Standard Contracts that commissioners are expected to use for NHS funded services as a basis for setting out their expectations in terms of performance by their providers.

It falls into the Nationally Specified Events aspect of the contract, which introduces a sliding scale of deductions of up to 2% of the annual contract value if the provider breaches the number of cases of clostridium difficile infections in a contract year compared with the previous year's performance. The primary care trust is required to make the year-end deduction under the provisions of the relevant clause within the contract.

Clostridium Difficile: Screening

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of patients screened for the early detection of clostridium difficile. [26394]

Mr Simon Burns: For patients who develop diarrhoea, existing guidance, clostridium difficile infection: How to deal with the problem', published by the Department and the Health Protection Agency, makes clear prompt testing is crucial. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Expert advice is that screening of patients without symptoms for clostridium difficile infection is unnecessary, as current evidence indicates that it is not clinically effective.

Day Care: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the likely change in the number of *(a)* daycare centres and *(b)* residential homes in (i) West Ham constituency and (ii) Newham in the next 12 months. [26485]

Mr Simon Burns: Care homes are operated by local councils or independent—private and charitable/voluntary—organisations. Day care is not a regulated service; councils are free to take their own decisions on its provision.

It is for local councils to ensure, through their planning and commissioning of all social care services, that there is sufficient capacity to meet local need. Therefore no such estimate has been made by the Department.

In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging fiscal climate, the Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care.

This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

Dental Services: Yorkshire and Humber

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of NHS dental service centres available in Yorkshire and the Humber; and what steps he is taking to improve provision for emergency treatment. [26547]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for primary care trusts to decide how local services, including dental access centres and urgent care, should develop to meet local needs and service priorities.

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the monetary value of grants awarded by his Department was in 2009-10; and how much he expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; [27261]

(2) what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [27264]

Paul Burstow: Information about grants awarded to voluntary organisations is routinely published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_118373

Specific information about all of the Departments grant awards for 2009-10 and 2010-11 has been placed in the Library. In 2009-10 the total value of grants awarded to voluntary organisations was £104,942,584. In 2010-11 the total value of grants awarded to voluntary organisations was £109,843,051.

The monetary value of the Department's grants to third sector organisations in 2011-12 will not be agreed until primary care trust allocations have been decided. However, the Government are committed to ensuring that appropriate support is available to voluntary organisations to enable them to contribute to improving health and well-being, building strong and resilient communities as part of the Big Society.

Departmental Postal Services

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to identify those of its services that could be provided through the Post Office network. [24931]

Mr Simon Burns: "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age" published on 9 November 2010 set out the Government's policy for the Post Office and the provision of Government services. The Department is currently consulting on an information revolution for health and social care. One of the key challenges will be to ensure that information can reach all sections of society. We want to hear from people as to how that can happen and very much welcome responses and ideas, including any views on how or whether making specific services available through Post Offices can play a role within that broader strategy.

A copy of the consultation document, "Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution" has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/
DH_120080

Diabetes

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with diabetes through the NHS vascular screening programme; and what steps the NHS is taking to inform members of the public of their entitlement to screening. [26918]

Paul Burstow: The primary purpose of the programme is risk assessment and risk management rather than diagnosis. However, the modelling undertaken by the Department indicates that, at full roll out, as well as preventing over 4,000 people a year developing diabetes, the programme will detect a significant amount of hitherto undiagnosed disease.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) began phased implementation of the programme from April 2009 and it is for them to decide how to inform local eligible populations about it. Most PCTs have been inviting people individually and informing them of their entitlement to an NHS health check by letter of invitation. As they become more experienced in managing demand for the risk assessment element of the check and confident about their capacity to deliver the risk management, PCTs are increasingly running awareness campaigns.

Disability: Children

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for his Department's funding of disabled children's services *(a)* after March 2011 and *(b)* in Sunderland from 2010 to 2015; and if he will make a statement. [26376]

Anne Milton: Primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations are not broken down by policy or service area. Once allocated, it is for PCTs to commission the services they require to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of both local and national priorities.

PCTs have been informed of their revenue allocations up to 2010-11. Sunderland Teaching PCT received revenue allocations of £510 million in 2009-10 and £538 million in 2010-11.

PCT revenue allocations post 2010-11 will be announced in December 2010.

Freedom of Information

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answers of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 862W, and 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on departmental freedom of information, if he will place in the Library a copy of the information provided on each topic in respect of which the request was *(a)* agreed to and answered in full and *(b)* agreed to and answered in part since November 2009; and if he will make a statement. [26412]

Anne Milton: Copies of the information requested by my hon. Friend have been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which private health providers *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have met to discuss the proposed GP consortiums since 6 May 2010. [26521]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been several meetings with private health providers specifically to discuss general practitioner (GP) consortiums and issues such as commissioning support for them.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State held a meeting with a group of companies who provide commissioning support to GP consortiums. The companies represented were UnitedHealth UK, Tribal UK, Humana Europe, Aetna UK and Ingenix.

Departmental officials have met with The Practice, Aetna UK, Tribal, Dr Foster Intelligence, PPP-Axa Healthcare, NHS Shared Business Services, UnitedHealth UK, and GE Healthcare.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 will apply in respect of the transfer of staff from primary care trusts to GP consortiums. [26524]

Mr Simon Burns: For those staff transferring from primary care trusts to general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortiums, transfers will be covered by either the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) and/or the Cabinet Office Staff Transfers in the Public Sector Statement of Practice which provides terms that are overall no less favourable than if TUPE was applied.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which reserve powers will be retained by his Department following the transfer of commissioning from primary care trusts to GP consortiums; [26525]

(2) what powers his Department will have to take action in respect of a GP consortium becoming financially unsustainable after the implementation of his proposals for practice-based commissioning. [26532]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) commissioning consortiums will be authorised and held to account by the NHS Commissioning Board. The NHS Commissioning Board will have powers to intervene in the event that a consortium is failing to manage their finances effectively or deliver acceptable outcomes for their patients.

The Secretary of State for Health will remain accountable for the health service with powers to set the legislative framework within which the NHS Commissioning Board and GP consortiums will operate but will not have powers to intervene in relation to individual consortiums. Further details will be set out in the Government's forthcoming response to the consultation on the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS".

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely average amount of time per week GPs will allocate to running GP consortiums as a result of his proposals to transfer commissioning from primary care trusts to GPs. [26531]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made an estimate of the likely average amount of time per week general practitioners (GPs) will allocate to running GP consortia.

A fundamental principle of the new commissioning arrangements will be that every GP practice will be a member of a consortium and contribute to its goals. However, our proposed model will mean that not all GPs have to be actively involved in every aspect of commissioning. Their predominant focus will continue to be on providing high quality primary care to their patients. It is likely to be a smaller group of primary care practitioners who will lead the consortium and play an active role in the clinical design of local services.

Consortiums are likely to carry out a number of commissioning activities themselves. In other cases, consortiums may choose to act collectively, adopting a lead commissioner arrangement. They may also choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities and private and voluntary sector bodies, which might include analytical activity to profile and stratify healthcare needs, support for procurement of services, and contract monitoring.

Haemophilia

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the NHS took steps to advise haemophiliacs that plasma pool samples from factor VIII and IX products produced by the NHS for their use had been tested for pathogens; and if he will make a statement; [26354]

(2) whether he plans to release further information held by his Department on the potential pathogenic side effects on haemophiliacs of factor VIII and IX products produced by the NHS for their use; and if he will make a statement. [26411]

Anne Milton: It was and still is the responsibility of individual clinicians to advise their patients of the risks associated with their treatment. In addition, knowledge of both HIV and hepatitis C emerged gradually, over a period of time in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

All of the relevant Government papers that are available from the period before 1985, when heat treatment for such products was introduced, are on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/DH_076693

Given the level of public interest in this matter, the Government are ready to release any more relevant documents should any come to light.

Help is at Hand Leaflet

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of copies of his Department's leaflet entitled Help is at Hand distributed by *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* police forces and *(c)* local authorities in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement; [26842]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that his Department's publication Help is at Hand is received by those whom it is intended to assist; and if he will make a statement. [26850]

Paul Burstow: Help is at Hand is a resource pack to support people bereaved by suicide or other sudden or traumatic deaths, which was launched in 2006. We have not collected data in the format requested by the hon. Member. However, data provided by the Department's publications orderline, PROLOG, were analysed to show the number of copies of each edition of the resource pack supplied to public institutions and private individuals between 12 September 2006 and 31 December 2009. The total number of packs distributed over this time period was 44,765.

To ensure effective promotion and dissemination of this bereavement pack we undertook a full and comprehensive evaluation of this resource. This evaluation is now complete and will be published before the end of December. Once we have published this evaluation we will consider how best to ensure it is available to all of those who need it.

Support for those bereaved by suicide is a priority for the new suicide prevention strategy currently being developed and due for publication in the new year.

Hemofil T: Clinical Trials

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 251W, on Hemofil T: clinical trials, what consideration his Department has given to obtaining information on the proportion of patients on the Hemofil T trial that were mild, moderate or severe haemophiliacs; and what assessment he has made of the levels of interest in the issue among *(a)* the public and *(b)* hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords. [27280]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency do not hold records of the Hemofil T trial and have not received previous correspondence regarding this specific trial from either the public or Members of the House of Commons or the House of Lords.

Hereditary Diseases

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 147W, on hereditary diseases, whether his Department collects information on genetic conditions causing increased morbidity and mortality in children born to first cousin parents. [26003]

Anne Milton: As stated in my previous answer, 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 147W, the Department of Health does not routinely collect this specific type of information centrally.

The Department recognises the value of adequate surveillance of congenital anomalies in order to detect any unforeseen increase of genetic defects due to this or any other causes. Surveillance helps develop local services specifically designed to deal with consanguineous relationships. This includes initiatives delivered through regional NHS genetic counselling services that work to raise awareness of the risks associated with cousin marriage.

Most couples in consanguineous relationships will have healthy children. Overall the risk of a couple having a child with a severe genetic condition is still relatively small, estimated at 4% for cousin marriages compared to 2% for unrelated parents.

Hereford County Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the total running costs for Hereford county hospital *(a)* was paid to the private finance initiative provider in each year from 2005-09 and *(b)* is projected to be so paid in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2011. [26280]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data for the proportion of total revenue expenditure by Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust in respect of its private finance initiative (PFI) scheme is set out in the following table.

Data are not held centrally for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust—Proportion of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI

	Percentage of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI
2005-06	13.3
2006-07	13.3
2007-08	13.3
2008-09	12.0
2009-10[1]	10.8

[1] 2009-10 accounts were compiled under International Finance Reporting Standards under which PFI costs in the audited summarisation schedules of trusts are split between capital repayments and revenue expenditure elements, which does not make a precise like for like comparison with earlier years in this table possible. However, an estimate of the PFI unitary payment for 2009-10 is held centrally by the Department as well as the audited outturn revenue expenditure figure for the Trust for this year and the percentage figure for this year is calculated using these two figures

Notes:

1. The source of the data is the audited summarisation schedules of the trust for 2005-06 to 2009-10.
2. The percentages provided represent the net revenue expenditure in respect of PFI schemes as a proportion of total revenue expenditure.
3. 2005-06 to 2008-09 figures compiled under UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Medical Schools

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical school places were available in 2009-10. [26544]

Anne Milton: The intake to medical schools in England in autumn 2009, was 6,453 students, as shown in the following table.

Medical school intake in England—2009-10 academic year

University/college	*Total intake of students*
University of Birmingham	428
University of Brighton	147
University of Bristol	268
University of Cambridge	306
University of Durham	98
University of East Anglia	169
University of Hull	160
Imperial College	309
Keele University	135
King's College London	417
University of Leeds	280
University of Leicester	284
University of Liverpool	397
University of Manchester	406
University of Newcastle	259
University of Nottingham	348
University of Oxford	185
Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry	218
Queen Mary, University of London	387
St George's Hospital Medical School	274
University of Sheffield	255
University of Southampton	252
University College London	285
University of Warwick	186
Total	6,453

Note:

These figures are provisional until November/December 2010 when revised figures will be reported to HEFCE.

Source:

Higher Education Funding Council for England—November 2009

Medical Schools: Public Expenditure

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of medical school places that will be available in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [26543]

Anne Milton: There are no current plans to change numbers but they will be kept under review based on forecast future demand with the advice of the Centre for Workforce Intelligence.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Screening

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's 2011 deadline for the screening of non-elective patients for MRSA. [26390]

Mr Simon Burns: As outlined in the "NHS Operating Framework 2010/11", there is a requirement to introduce Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* screening. Good progress is being made by organisations to implement screening for this cohort of patients, with some organisations already having declared full implementation of the policy and all organisations planning to implement emergency screening for relevant emergency admissions within the expected time scale. Strategic health authorities will continue to monitor delivery towards the requirement by 31 December 2010.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of MRSA. [26392]

Mr Simon Burns: This Government are determined to do all they can to support the health and adult social care providers reduce Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). From the outset, through the Coalition Agreement, this Government made clear that they expected the national health service to adopt a zero tolerance approach to all health care associated infections (HCAIs), including MRSA.

In the revision of the 2010-11 Operating Framework published in June, it was made clear that the NHS should continue prioritising the achievement of the MRSA objective. The successful implementation of this objective will deliver both an overall reduction nationally and, importantly, will reduce variation by moving all organisations towards the performance of the best.

At the same time, the revision of the Operating Framework confirmed that it expected and required the NHS to implement MRSA screening of all relevant emergency admissions by the end of this year.

In terms of using the availability of data as a driver to supporting further reductions in MRSA, we have introduced weekly data publication of both MRSA blood stream infections and Clostridium difficile infections at hospital site level.

We are also committed to ensuring that the NHS continue to have access to evidence based guidance in order that they can reduce the number of all HCAIs, including MRSA, through the implementation of effective infection prevention and control practices. This guidance is available on the Department of Health's "Clean, Safe Care" website.

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 "Code of Practice for health and adult social care on the Prevention and Control of Infections and related guidance", which the Care Quality Commission uses as a basis for assessing compliance with the registration requirement on cleanliness and infection control has been a driver for improvement in the hospital setting. The scope of the Code has already been extended to adult social care settings and will include primary care in due course so that we can ensure that all settings where patients receive care and treatment operate comparable infection prevention and control practices.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Screening

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department collates for the purpose of monitoring rates of MRSA. [26391]

Mr Simon Burns: Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteraemia are subject to mandatory reporting to the Health Protection Agency. The Department uses the outputs from this system to assess and monitor rates of MRSA bacteraemia at both national and local levels.

Multiple Sclerosis: Health Services

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the membership is of the independent scientific advisory group of the multiple sclerosis risk-sharing scheme; [26893]

(2) how many patients have taken part in the multiple sclerosis risk-sharing scheme; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of administering drug treatments under the scheme; [26894]

(3) which organisation is responsible for monitoring outcomes for patients involved in the multiple sclerosis risk-sharing scheme; and when the results of the scheme will be published. [26895]

Mr Simon Burns: The scientific advisory group of the multiple sclerosis risk sharing scheme (MS RSS) comprises individuals with expertise in clinical research, epidemiology and trials and health economics. The group is chaired by Richard Lilford, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at Birmingham university and receives specialist advice from neurologists who specialise in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

The MS RSS collects data from a cohort of over 5,000 patients. There are an estimated 12,000 people receiving drug therapy in the United Kingdom through the scheme. Total national health service spend in England on the four drugs covered by the scheme is estimated at £50 million a year. The Department contributes £200,000 per year to running the scheme.

Parexel Ltd, a specialist clinical research organisation, is responsible for data collection, management and analysis for the MS RSS. Analysis of four year data from the scheme is due to be completed in 2011.

Muscular Dystrophy: Yorkshire and Humber

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet the Yorkshire and Humber Specialist Commissioning Group to discuss the proposed appointment of a muscular dystrophy care advisor for Hull. [27029]

Paul Burstow: The appointment of a muscular dystrophy care adviser in Hull is a matter for the local national health service. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State currently has no plans to meet the Yorkshire and Humber Specialised Commissioning Group to discuss this matter.

NHS

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely ability of NHS foundation trusts to meet patient safety targets in each of the next three financial years. [26393]

Mr Simon Burns: We are informed by the Chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) that the safety of patients at NHS foundation trusts is assessed by a number of bodies, principally the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC registers providers of regulated activities, including NHS foundation trusts and monitors their compliance with the essential safety and quality requirements. Where there is evidence of material safety concerns, CQC and Monitor will jointly consider the appropriate action.

NHS: Armed Forces

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many armed forces reservists employed by the NHS have had requests for leave to undergo operational training refused by NHS trusts in the financial year 2010-11 to date. [26534]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

We do not centrally monitor the number of national health service (NHS) staff serving in the reserve forces. There is an option on the electronic staff record (ESR) to record reserve forces training as a reason for absence, however, entry of these data is not mandatory (although it is recommended as ESR best practice). Last year around 100 NHS organisations recorded reserve forces training as a reason for absence but we cannot be sure of a national figure or how many requests for this type of leave have been refused.

NHS: Public Finance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget deficit or surplus was for each NHS trust on the latest date for which figures are available. [26499]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest figures available on the surplus or deficit positions for each national health service trust are the 2010-11 Quarter 1 forecasts, which were published on the Department's website on 19 November 2010.

These figures can be found by region in annexes 1 to 10 of David Flory's, 'The Quarter: quarter 1 2010-11' at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_087335

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Nurses: Public Expenditure

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of nurses who will leave the NHS in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [26537]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of nurses to be recruited in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [26540]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

The precise numbers of national health service nurses required over the next five years will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

The Department of Health has consulted on how the new organisations should be designed and is analysing responses. Information on how the new organisations should be designed will be announced in due course.

The Government have fulfilled their commitment to give the NHS a real terms increase in funding each year. The demands on the service are rising and to meet these, the NHS must make up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2014, by reducing bureaucracy and doing things differently. Savings will be reinvested to support the delivery of quality health care.

Social Services: Elderly

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the likely percentage reduction in funding for social care for older people in Newcastle upon Tyne as a result of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement; [26950]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on the quality of social care services provided for older people in Newcastle upon Tyne; and if he will make a statement. [26952]

Paul Burstow: The spending review recognised the importance of social care to hundreds of thousands of adults of all ages, backgrounds and identities: supporting their independence and helping them to make full and active contributions to their communities.

In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care.

We have achieved this by:

The national health service transferring some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will rise to £1 billion in 2014-15, and will promote improved joint working between the health and social care systems. Further details will be set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12.

Additional grant funding, rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, will be made available for social care. This funding will be allocated in addition to the Department's existing social care grants, which will rise in line with inflation. Total grant funding from the Department for social care will reach £2.4 billion by 2014-15. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding will go to authorities through the revenue support grant.

This means that, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to care and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

A key priority for the Government is a radical devolution of power away from central Government, freeing local government from central control and empowering local people to take an active role in services. Decisions on spending at a local level must be considered in the context of local priorities, which are crafted by local authorities in response to the needs and wishes of the people they serve. Spending on social care will therefore be a decision for the relevant local authority, and it is not possible to provide a central estimate.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the financial performance of South London Healthcare NHS Trust. [26268]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has identified six trusts as financially challenged, including South London Healthcare NHS Trust. The Department will continue to work with London strategic health authority to ensure that, during 2010-11, South London Healthcare NHS Trust has plans in place to return to financial balance, whilst at the same time maintaining and improving services to patients.

Surgery: Waiting Lists

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average waiting time for elective surgery by the end of the comprehensive spending review period. [26528]

Mr Simon Burns: Clinical priority will remain the main determinant of when patients should be treated. Patients should not experience undue delay at any stage of their treatment and would not expect a return to long waiting times for operations.

The national health service (NHS) will be accountable locally to the public it serves and provide information to patients which will drive choice and competition in the NHS.

Tuberculosis: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis have been diagnosed in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [26267]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of tuberculosis cases reported in the London borough of Bexley, 2007-09

	Number of cases
2007	27
2008	23
2009	17

Source:
Health Protection Agency

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Mark Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the proportion of the running costs of University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire *(a)* which was paid to the private finance initiative provider in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10 and *(b)* will be paid to that provider in 2010-11 and 2011-12. [26153]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data for the proportion of total revenue expenditure by University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust in respect of its private finance initiative (PFI) scheme are set out in the following table.

Figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not comparable with later years as the PFI hospital did not fully open until part way through 2006-07.

Data are not held centrally for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust—proportion of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI

	Percentage of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI
2005-06	4.3
2006-07	12.7
2007-08	14.6
2008-09	14.6
2009-10[1]	14.3

[1] 2009-10 accounts were compiled under International Finance Reporting Standards under which PFI costs in the audited summarisation schedules of trusts are split between capital repayments and revenue expenditure elements, which does not make a precise like for like comparison with earlier years in this table possible. However, an estimate of the PFI unitary payment for 2009-10 is held centrally by the Department as well as the audited outturn revenue expenditure figure for the trust for this year and the percentage figure for this year is calculated using these two figures.

Notes:

1. The source of the data is the audited summarisation schedules of the trust for 2005-06 to 2009-10.
2. The percentages provided represent the net revenue expenditure in respect of PFI schemes as a proportion of total revenue expenditure.
3. 2005-06 to 2008-09 figures compiled under UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Young People: Autism

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department issues guidance on referring young people with autism who receive support from child and adolescent mental health services and do not fulfil the criteria for adult mental health teams to appropriate support from other services on reaching adulthood. [26443]

Paul Burstow: The Autism Act 2009 requires that the Government produce statutory guidance for health and social care bodies to support delivery of the autism strategy. The strategy highlights the need to improve transition planning to give people with autism the right start as adults and the guidance will include advice on the transition from child to adult services. I will launch this guidance at a meeting hosted by the National Autistic Society on 17 December 2010.

Cancer: Drugs

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to each strategic health authority from the NHS funding for cancer drugs announced on 10 November 2010. [27395]

Paul Burstow: With regard to the additional funding for national health service cancer drugs in 2010-11, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Ealing, Southall (Mr Sharma) on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 297W.

We are currently consulting on our proposals for the Cancer Drugs Fund to be introduced from April 2011, including on the most appropriate allocation of the £200 million per annum funding.

Child Birth: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital and *(b)* home births took place in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [26269]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) hospital and (b) home births took place in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. (26269)

The table below shows the numbers of live births occurring to mothers usually resident in the London Borough of Bexley in each year 2005 to 2009. These are presented by place of birth: NHS hospital, at home or other.

Place of birth	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*
NHS hospital	2,977	2,894	2,882	2,707	2,635
At home	46	74	61	73	43
Other[1]	6	7	4	8	8
Total live births	3,029	2,975	2,947	2,788	2,686

[1] 'Other' live births include those taking place in non-NHS establishments such as private maternity units, military hospitals, and private hospitals. They also include births occurring 'elsewhere', for example in private residences that are not the mother's own, or those occurring on the way to the hospital.

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27515]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not account for sponsorship separately within its accounting system. It would take disproportionate time and incur a disproportionate cost to collect the information requested. The Department does not collect sponsorship information from its non-departmental public bodies and it would also take a disproportionate time to commission the request.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World cup. [27361]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not funded entertainment related to the activities of the 2010 FIFA World cup.

General Practitioners

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GP consortiums commissioning healthcare services by tender will be able to accept tenders from other NHS organisations; and if he will make a statement. [27093]

Paul Burstow: It is essential that general practitioner (GP) consortia have the freedom to make commissioning decisions that they judge will achieve the best outcomes within the financial resources available to them. At the same time, the economic regulator and NHS Commissioning Board will need to develop and maintain a framework that ensures transparency, fairness and patient choice. We propose that, wherever possible, services should be commissioned that enable patients to choose from any willing provider.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for providing a framework to support GP consortiums in commissioning services. This will include setting standards for the quality of NHS commissioning and procurement.

Health Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposals in respect of commissioning of health services in the Health White Paper will lead to *(a)* podiatry and *(b)* similar services being commissioned as single services. [27158]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices.

GP consortiums will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of national health service services. We will expect consortiums to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, and more efficient use of NHS resources. This will create an effective dialogue across all health, and where appropriate, social care, professionals.

To support GP consortiums in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients' invited views on a number of areas of the commissioning agenda. The engagement exercise closed on 11 October and the Department is now analysing all of the contributions received.

Health Services: Standards

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of patients spent *(a)* four hours or less and *(b)* more than four hours from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge at accident and emergency departments in each (i) month and (ii) quarter of (A) 2009 and (B) 2010 to date. [27637]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

Quarterly data on the number and proportion of patients who spend four hours or less from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge at accident and emergency (A&E) departments is available and published quarterly via the Department's Quarterly Monitoring Accident and Emergency Services (QMAE) dataset. QMAE is the official source for monitoring performance against the four hour A&E waiting time standard.

Monthly data on the number and proportion of patients who spend four hours or less from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge at A&E departments are only available monthly for August to October 2010 from situation report (SitRep) management data. These data do not undergo the same validation processes as official QMAE data.

For the months prior to August 2010 SitRep data were collected on a weekly basis and monthly figures would be difficult to obtain from the weekly data as different months would contain different numbers of weeks, meaning a month on month comparison would be distorted.

A&E attendances and performance, England, calendar year, 2009 and 2010 by quarter, 2010, August, September, October

					All A&E/Minor Injuries Unit/Walk in Centre (Type 1, 2, 3)			
					Attendances where patient spent:		*Percentage of attendances where patient spent:*	
Calendar year	*Quarter*	*Month*	*OrgID*	*Name*	*Four hours or less in A&E*	*More than four hours in A&E*	*Four hours or less in A&E*[1,2]	*More than four hours in A&E*[1,2]
QMAE data								
2009	1	—	Eng	England	4,591,401	108,816	97.7	2.3
2009	2	—	Eng	England	5,113,295	74,693	98.6	1.4
2009	3	—	Eng	England	5,025,722	66,023	98.7	1.3
2009	4	—	Eng	England	4,925,381	110,738	97.8	2.2
2010	1	—	Eng	England	4,731,558	102,163	97.9	2.1
2010	2	—	Eng	England	5,396,369	86,501	98.4	1.6
2010	3	—	Eng	England	5,214,746	106,710	98.0	2.0
Monthly SitRep data								
2010	—	August	Eng	England	1,723,360	33,180	98.1	1.9
2010	—	September	Eng	England	1,701,826	41,151	97.6	2.4
2010	—	October	Eng	England	1,753,711	47,414	97.4	2.6

[1] From Q1 2010-11 (calendar year 2010 Q2), the calculation of quarterly A&E performance on the QMAE has changed. Prior to 2010-11 the calculation has identified the proportion of breaches with respect to all A&E attendances, irrespective of whether the time spent in A&E was known. The new calculation shows the breaches as a proportion of total attendances for which the time spent in A&E is known. Any attendances for which the time spent in A&E is unknown are excluded from the total attendances for the purpose of the calculation.

[2] The calculation of monthly A&E performance on the Monthly SitReps identifies the proportion of breaches with respect to all A&E attendances, irrespective of whether the time spent in A&E was known.

Notes:

Attendances with an unknown total time are not included in the quarterly QMAE data. .

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMAE, Monthly SitReps

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of patients *(a)* received treatment within and *(b)* waited longer for treatment than 18-weeks after referral in each (i) month and (ii) quarter of (A) 2009 and (B) 2010 to date. [27638]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is shown in the following table:

Referral to treatment (RTT) national statistics (England)

Completed admitted adjusted RTT consultant-led pathways

Calendar year	*Quarter*	*Month*	*Number of patients who started treatment within 18-weeks*	*Number of patients who started treatment after 18-weeks*	*% of patients who started treatment within 18-weeks*	*% of patients who started treatment after 18-weeks*
2009	—	January	273,184	20,751	92.9	7.1
2009	—	February	261,111	20,364	92.8	7.2
2009	—	March	300,703	22,483	93.0	7.0
2009	1	—	834,998	63,598	92.9	7.1
2009	—	April	267,357	19,295	93.3	6.7
2009	—	May	263,030	17,634	93.7	6.3
2009	—	June	299,763	20,350	93.6	6.4
2009	2	—	830,150	57,279	93.5	6.5
2009	—	July	303,148	20,532	93.7	6.3
2009	—	August	262,624	17,986	93.6	6.4
2009	—	September	297,343	21,401	93.3	6.7
2009	3	—	863,115	59,919	93.5	6.5
2009	—	October	299,077	22,478	93.0	7.0
2009	—	November	294,662	22,918	92.8	7.2
2009	—	December	260,308	18,811	93.3	6.7
2009	4	—	854,047	64,207	93.0	7.0
2010	—	January	263,501	20,996	92.6	7.4
2010	—	February	275,335	24,172	91.9	8.1
2010	—	March	322,462	27,921	92.0	8.0
2010	1	—	861,298	73,089	92.2	7.8
2010	—	April	265,895	22,774	92.1	7.9
2010	—	May	270,648	20,662	92.9	7.1
2010	—	June	300,549	22,440	93.1	6.9
2010	2	—	837,092	65,876	92.7	7.3
2010	—	July	292,098	21,120	93.3	6.7
2010	—	August	268,301	19,553	93.2	6.8
2010	—	September	289,261	23,542	92.5	7.5
2010	3	—	849,660	64,215	93.0	7.0

Completed non-admitted RTT consultant-led pathways

Calendar year	*Quarter*	*Month*	*Number of patients who started treatment within 18-weeks*	*Number of patients who started treatment after 18-weeks*	*% of patients who started treatment within 18-weeks*	*% of patients who started treatment after 18-weeks*
2009	—	January	811,077	22,252	97.3	2.7
2009	—	February	739,427	20,390	97.3	2.7
2009	—	March	873,636	23,407	97.4	2.6
2009	1	—	2,424,140	66,049	97.3	2.7
2009	—	April	824,755	21,682	97.4	2.6
2009	—	May	793,540	18,005	97.8	2.2
2009	—	June	936,590	21,294	97.8	2.2
2009	2	—	2,554,885	60,981	97.7	2.3
2009	—	July	928,721	21,549	97.7	2.3
2009	—	August	785,914	18,393	97.7	2.3
2009	—	September	913,825	22,784	97.6	2.4
2009	3	—	2,628,460	62,726	97.7	2.3
2009	—	October	893,394	21,233	97.7	2.3
2009	—	November	887,612	20,488	97.7	2.3
2009	—	December	792,428	17,221	97.9	2.1
2009	4	—	2,573,434	58,942	97.8	2.2

Completed non-admitted RTT consultant-led pathways

Calendar year	*Quarter*	*Month*	*Number of patients who started treatment within 18-weeks*	*Number of patients who started treatment after 18-weeks*	*% of patients who started treatment within 18-weeks*	*% of patients who started treatment after 18-weeks*
2010	—	January	794,900	18,346	97.7	2.3
2010	—	February	827,198	18,559	97.8	2.2
2010	—	March	955,792	21,050	97.8	2.2
2010	1	—	2,577,890	57,955	97.8	2.2
2010	—	April	822,550	17,662	97.9	2.1
2010	—	May	842,612	15,557	98.2	1.8
2010	—	June	942,117	17,252	98.2	1.8
2010	2	—	2,607,279	50,471	98.1	1.9
2010	—	July	921,418	18,036	98.1	1.9
2010	—	August	859,515	17,278	98.0	2.0
2010	—	September	927,225	20,583	97.8	2.2
2010	3	—	2,708,158	55,897	98.0	2.0

Note:
The quarterly figures are calculated from an aggregation of the monthly data.
Source:
Department of Health RTT waiting times.

Health Services: Weather

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether any NHS trusts have reported issues related to *(a)* capacity of critical care services and *(b)* bed availability under his Department's winter reporting arrangements since 2 November 2010; [27349]

(2) whether he has received any reports of problems in patient handover between ambulance and acute services under his Department's winter reporting arrangements during November 2010; [27350]

(3) whether any *(a)* daily situation reports and *(b)* NHS trusts have identified services operation problems under his Department's winter reporting arrangements since 2 November 2010. [27351]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for individual local health areas, working with their strategic health authorities (SHAs), to ensure that appropriate services are available for their patients during winter.

Where operational issues are identified through daily winter reporting, the Department works closely with SHAs to ensure local winter plans are escalated to mitigate operational risks.

There will, on occasion, be peak demands on services in certain places. This can mean temporary measures are necessary, but these are kept to an absolute minimum and patient safety and quality of care are always paramount.

Hip Fractures: Older People

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the variation in number of older people with hip fractures between different local authority areas. [27455]

Paul Burstow: There is a significant programme of work in development to address variation. This Government intended the commissioning toolkit to support organisations' establishment of effective falls and fracture prevention and management, the best practice tariff that is in place which incentivises high quality care; National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on hip fracture care and the focus on outcomes within the national health service.

Insulin

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has for the future provision of testing strips for insulin users. [27100]

Paul Burstow: Prescribing decisions about blood testing strips are for local determination. It is for the local national health service to ensure that they are commissioning for a comprehensive diabetes service that includes patient education as well as access to blood testing strips.

In 2002, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issued clinical guidelines on 'Management of Type 2 Diabetes—Management of Blood Glucose'. The guidelines include advice on the self-monitoring of blood glucose, and state that self-monitoring can have benefits, but it should be carried out as part of an integrated self-care package and if the purpose is clear and agreed with the patient. People with non-insulin-treated Type 2 diabetes, who believe it to be beneficial, and have clearly defined goals and objectives, should be encouraged to continue to monitor.

Local Involvement Networks: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to put in place to ensure continuity of funding to local authorities for Local Involvement Networks prior to the establishment of local HealthWatch organisations; and if he will make a statement. [28201]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bristol East (Kerry McCarthy) on 18 November, *Official Report*, columns 957-958W.

NHS Commissioning Board

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Commissioning Board will commission salaried primary dental care services. [27167]

Mr Simon Burns: Yes, that is our intention. The White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" proposed that the NHS Commissioning Board would commission primary care dental services.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that NHS trusts continue to provide equal access for all patients upon becoming foundation trusts; and if he will make a statement. [27094]

Mr Simon Burns: Each primary care trust (PCT) needs to ensure equality of access to national health service services through the providers it contracts with, including NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs). Through contracting with a plurality of health service providers, PCTs should be able to secure improved access for the patients they serve.

In the future, general practitioner consortiums will commission the services that patients receive, helping them to navigate the system and ensure they get the best care.

The general right to access NHS services will remain unchanged as NHS Trusts become authorised to operate as NHSFTs.

NHS Litigation Authority

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Litigation Authority will provide insurance cover for private providers of NHS services after the implementation of the proposals in the NHS White Paper. [27160]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority does not currently provide insurance cover, but provides a discretionary indemnity to members of the statutory schemes established under section 71 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Membership of the schemes is voluntary.

The Department is committed to making sure the same arrangements that provide clinical negligence cover to NHS bodies are also available to other providers that deliver NHS care, including other public sector providers and private providers. Changes will be implemented alongside the White Paper reforms.

Osteoporosis: Health Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of GP practices which have met the minimum thresholds set out in the Osteoporosis Directed Enhanced Service. [27181]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold information on the number of practices that participate in the Osteoporosis Directed Enhanced Service. The information is held by primary care trusts (PCTs) who hold a contract with those general practitioner practices who have chosen to enter into an arrangement with a PCT to provide this service.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will fund a national programme of audits of falls and bone health in primary care. [27186]

Paul Burstow: We already fund a national clinical audit of falls and bone health, delivered by the Royal College of Physicians. The audit measures the organisation of services and care provided to older people for falls prevention, bone health and fracture management. It provides national benchmarking data, using evidence based quality standards, for a variety of healthcare settings: acute, primary care, care homes and mental health care.

Strokes: Health Education

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to release the remaining tranche of funding for the Act FAST campaign; [27168]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Act FAST campaign in raising stroke awareness. [27169]

Mr Simon Burns: Approval has been received recently from the Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group for a further wave of the Act FAST Stroke awareness campaign to go ahead. The current intention is for the television adverts to run in March 2011, supported by distribution of other materials locally.

The evaluation we commissioned from the advertising agency which was awarded the contract for developing the stroke awareness campaign, showed that the campaign successfully achieved a rapid change in behaviour: within a year, an estimated 9,864 more people reached hospital faster, 642 of whom were saved from death or serious disability by receiving thrombolysis. The evidence demonstrated that the campaign achieved a payback of £3.16 for every £1 spent. On this basis the agency submitted an entry to the 2010 Institute of Professional Advertisers Effectiveness Awards and, in November, achieved a Gold Award.

Tobacco: Sales

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he proposes for implementation of any proposals requiring the sale of tobacco products in plain packaging; and if he will make a statement. [27434]

Anne Milton: The Government's consideration of policy on the plain packaging of tobacco products is in its early stages. The Government will look at whether the plain packaging of tobacco products could be an effective way to reduce further the numbers of young people taking up smoking and to help those who are trying to quit smoking. The Government want to make it easier for people to make healthy choices, but will clearly need to consider both the benefits and the costs of any new policy.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his press statement of 22 November 2010, what the evidential basis was for his statement that *(a)* packaging helps to recruit smokers and *(b)* that children are being attracted to smoking by glitzy designs on packets; what plans he has to implement legislative provisions prohibiting the display in retail outlets of tobacco product packaging; and if he will make a statement. [27439]

Anne Milton: A large number of documents, reports and studies have been published about the effect of packaging in the marketing and promotion of tobacco products, and support the statements made by the Secretary of State.

For example, the RAND Europe study "Assessing the Impacts of Revising the Tobacco Products Directive" commissioned by the European Commission Health and Consumer Directorate-General to support their assessment of the impacts of revising the Tobacco Products Directive 2001/37/EC and published in September 2010, includes a section examining the evidence on the plain or generic packaging of tobacco products.

The RAND report can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/docs/tobacco_ia_rand_en.pdf

Also, the Australian Government have announced their intention to introduce a legislative requirement for the plain packaging of tobacco to commence on 1 January 2012. The evidence supporting their action is summarised in their technical report "Australia: the healthiest country by 2020—Technical report 2 Tobacco Control in Australia".

The Australian technical report can be found at:

www.preventativehealth.org.au/internet/preventativehealth/publishing.nsf/Content/tech-tobacco

The Government are looking at options around the display of tobacco in shops, recognising the need to take action both to reduce tobacco consumption and to reduce burdens on businesses. No decisions have yet been made.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 2 December 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what grants have been awarded by his Department in 2010-11 to date; what grants he plans to award in each of the next two years; what the monetary value is of each such grant; and to which organisations such grants are made. [27213]

Mr Paterson: My Department has not awarded any grants in the current financial year and does not intend to award any grants in each of the next two financial years.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the monetary value of grants awarded by his Department was in 2009-10; and how much he expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [27217]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available for the period prior to the completion of devolution of policing and justice powers on 12 April 2010.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not intend to award any grants in 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27522]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice powers on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and its NDPB have not incurred any expenditure on sponsorship.

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27845]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has no requirement to source timber. Any procurement undertaken by the Department is carried out under central Government guidelines.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he has taken since his appointment to reduce expenditure on conferences from budgets within his responsibility. [28369]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has no budget allocation for this type of expenditure for the financial year 2010-11.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Lammy: To ask the Leader of the House when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Tottenham of 5 November 2010. [28661]

Sir George Young: I replied to the right hon. Gentleman's letter on 1 December 2010.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Archives: Publications

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will place in the Library a copy of each publication produced by the Parliamentary Archives in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [28007]

John Thurso: The recent publications of the Parliamentary Archives are not formally deposited in the Library of either House, but are instead freely available to Members and the public from the Archives' searchroom on the second floor of the House of Lords and also on the parliamentary website at:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/archives-pubs-reviews/

and

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/archives-userguides/

The forthcoming book Victoria Tower Treasures will be available to purchase from the Parliamentary Bookshop or the Archives' searchroom from 13 December 2010.

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what accessions have been made to the Parliamentary Archives in each of the last 11 years; what guidance is issued about the type of material accepted by the Parliamentary Archives; and if he will make a statement. [28011]

John Thurso: A list of accessions can be found at the back of each Parliamentary Archives' Annual Report from 1999 to 2007-08 on the parliamentary website, here:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/archives-pubs-reviews/

A consolidated list of these accessions including 2008-09, plus a list of accessions for 2009-10, will be deposited in the Library of the House of Commons.

The Parliamentary Archives "Collection and Acquisition Policy" is available from the Archives' searchroom on the second floor of the House of Lords, and on the parliamentary website, here:

http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/archivesacquisitionpolicy09.pdf

Parliamentary Archives: Visits

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many people visited the Parliamentary Archives in each year since 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [28133]

John Thurso: Visits to the searchroom by members of the public researching for family history, local history, academic and educational work, media, legal and other business purposes were:

	Number
2006-07	1,024
2007-08	1,133
2008-09	980
2009-10	925

This figure does not include numbers attending on group tours.

TRANSPORT

Cycling Proficiency

1. **Stella Creasy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to promote cycling proficiency; and if he will make a statement. [27880]

Norman Baker: We have already announced Bikeability will be supported for the remainder of this Parliament. In 2010-11 £11 million is available to fund up to 275,000 'Bikeability' Level 2 cycle-training places for children. £500,000 is available for bursaries to train new cycle training instructors.

We expect to announce details of funding for Bikeability training the next four years very shortly.

Concessionary Travel

10. **Barry Gardiner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future age of eligibility for the national concessionary travel scheme. [27892]

Norman Baker: The eligible age for concessionary travel for both men and women is linked to the state pension age for women. As the pensionable age for women increases from 60 to 65, so too will the age of eligibility for concessionary travel. The age of eligibility will increase in line with any future changes to the state pension age for women, a policy initiated by the last Government.

Road Safety

17. **Mark Pawsey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of road traffic accidents involving young people. [27899]

Mike Penning: In September 2010 we issued road safety teaching materials for secondary schools. I have also announced several changes to the driving tests to help young people prepare better to drive safely on their own. The Driving Standards Agency is also promoting a Foundation Course in Safe Road Use. The general improvements in road safety have also benefited young people. The UK has the safest roads in the world and we have seen large reductions in child deaths and injuries, which mean we are now among the best performing EU countries on children's casualties.

I am considering whether additional measures might be added to these changes.

High Speed 1

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the sale of High Speed 1; and if he will make a statement. [27889]

Mr Philip Hammond: The sale of HS1 Ltd.—the High Speed 1 concessionaire—was completed on 18 November 2010. The purchaser is a consortium comprising Borealis Infrastructure Management and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. The acquisition value was just under £2.1 billion.

Railways: North West

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of rail connections between Preston and Merseyside; and if he will make a statement. [27887]

Mrs Villiers: On 25 November 2010, the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed the Government's plans on electrification in the North West. We expect Network Rail to have completed this project by 2016, allowing electric trains to run between Liverpool and Preston and onwards to Blackpool.

Roads: Accidents

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* injuries and *(c)* accidents have occurred on the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge in each year since 1996. [28220]

Mike Penning: The number of reported *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* injuries and *(c)* personal injury road accidents on the A1307 (at the junction with A143 Wratting Road Haverhill) and the A1307 (at the junction with A603 Lensfield Road Cambridge) is given in the following table:

	Fatalities	*Injuries*	*Accidents*
1996	3	91	59
1997	1	112	65
1998	2	101	56
1999	5	119	70
2000	1	105	66
2001	1	103	65
2002	4	90	58
2003	3	105	79
2004	1	126	80

	Fatalities	*Injuries*	*Accidents*
2005	1	115	66
2006	3	114	70
2007	3	92	61
2008	6	103	74
2009	1	63	45

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the number of railway carriages on the Wharfedale and Airedale lines. [27885]

Mike Penning: Following my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport's statement on 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 52-54WS, regarding railway investment, I can confirm that the Department for Transport has already re-started discussions with Northern Trains with a view to providing an increased number of carriages on the Wharfedale and Airedale lines, as well as other areas of the franchise. We intend to make an announcement next year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21889]

Robert Neill: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Fire Services

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the Fire Futures Review to conclude; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of that review. [27958]

Robert Neill: The Fire Futures strategic review of the Fire and Rescue Service is a sector led project on fire and rescue provision in England.

The report will be presented to me by the sector shortly and a copy published on the departmental website thereafter. A copy will also be made available for the Library of the House.

No estimate of the costs of Fire Futures has been undertaken, but the review places no additional costs on the public purse as all resources have been given freely by the sector or provided from within DCLG existing staffing resources.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from central Government grants was allocated to each fire service in each of the last five years; and how much such funding he plans to allocate in each year of the spending review period. [28085]

Robert Neill: The amount of central Government grants paid to each single purpose fire and rescue authority in England from 2005-06 to 2009-10 is set out in the following table.

We will announce our proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2011-12 in the usual manner in due course.

£000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	81,332	71,326	73,921	74,295	75,247
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	52,019	44,198	45,391	45,845	47,172
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	37,257	33,954	35,047	35,678	36,664
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	41,818	37,419	38,235	38,857	39,075
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	82,093	75,875	78,364	80,980	82,662
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	59,788	52,124	53,043	57,745	56,368
Avon Combined Fire Authority	25,796	24,520	25,257	24,632	25,713
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	10,924	10,271	10,593	10,919	11,295
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	15,034	14,721	15,119	15,547	15,503
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	11,021	11,597	11,954	12,382	12,342
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	12,767	11,952	12,479	13,553	14,064
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	17,086	15,818	16,897	17,523	18,489
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	22,794	21,364	21,940	22,160	22,270
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	18,497	16,220	16,989	18,454	19,202
Devon Combined Fire Authority[1]	22,927	21,082	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority[1]	[1]—	[1]—	33,201	39,353	39,875
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	12,325	10,533	10,799	12,192	13,350
Durham Combined Fire Authority	14,410	13,154	13,441	13,784	14,193
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	15,019	13,412	13,835	14,107	14,349
Essex Combined Fire Authority	30,982	29,070	30,742	30,859	32,812

£000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	28,571	27,969	28,395	29,240	30,202
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority	11,931	10,971	11,390	11,628	11,754
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	25,742	23,716	24,765	25,578	26,456
Kent Combined Fire Authority	30,904	28,366	29,493	30.703	30,296
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	35,608	33,143	34,008	34,093	34,091
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	17,447	17,890	18,542	19,388	19,814
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	14,221	13,027	13.361	13,640	13,415
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	21,734	20,280	21,557	23,295	24,349
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	7,219	6,936	7.195	7,669	7,975
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	17,509	16,278	17.451	17,654	18,152
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	9,008	8,886	9.152	9,632	9,801

[1] Not applicable owing to local authority re-organisation.

Source:

Department for Communities and Local Government revenue outturn (RO) returns.

The figures for other local authorities providing a fire service are not available as the formula grant is an unhypothecated grant.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates), specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services) and from 2008-09 it also includes area based grant.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and changes to funding methodology.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has made an estimate of the frontline firefighter staffing levels required by each fire service. [27928]

Robert Neill: Decisions on operational issues such as firefighter staffing levels are taken by individual fire and rescue authorities as part of the Integrated Risk Management Planning process.

The Government are committed to enabling local authorities and local communities to make appropriate decisions at the local level. Fire and rescue authorities are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. Each fire and rescue authority's Management Plan enables that individual authority to decide how best to provide fire and rescue-related services, including prevention and protection as well as response, with resources being allocated on the basis of the evaluation of risk and where the risks are greatest.

Local requirements are thus determined by local people according to local circumstances.

For those reasons, no formal estimate or scrutiny of the frontline firefighter staffing levels required by each individual fire and rescue service has been made by central Government.

Local Government Finance: Somerset

Jacob Rees-Mogg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects on his Department's funding for Bath and North East Somerset Council of the combined application of damping and freezing ring-fenced grants and moving into formula grant in 2011-12; what funding his Department provided for the Council in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; what funding it expects to provide in 2011-12; what methodology his Department used to determine such figures in respect of each such year; and if he will make a statement. [26554]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Funding provided for Bath and North East Somerset council by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2009-10 and 2010-11 is detailed in the following table:

£ million

	Specific and area based grants[1]	*Formula grant*
2009-10	5.180	39.993
2010-11[2]	10.762	41.559

[1] Does not include national non-domestic rates outturn adjustment amounts.

[2] Includes grants due to be paid throughout the financial year.

Methodologies used to determine formula grant and special and specific grants from the Department for Communities and Local Government are available on the Department website at the following addresses:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ssas.htm

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/areabasedgrant/

We will announce our proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2011-12 in the usual manner in due course.

Mortgages

Mr Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on its assessment of the effect on house prices of the introduction of its mortgage market proposals; and if he will make a statement; [27538]

(2) whether he has assessed the effect on the *(a)* housing market and *(b)* supply of new homes of the mortgage market review proposals made by the Financial Services Authority; and if he will make a statement; [27542]

(3) whether he has discussed with the Council of Mortgage Lenders the likely effect on the housing market of the Financial Services Authority's proposals for responsible lending. [27543]

Grant Shapps: The new Government are committed to supporting aspiration to home ownership and share the underlying objective of the Mortgage Market Review to create a stable, sustainable market for all participants. We must avoid the boom and bust that the property market has experienced in the last decade.

We want to see a regulatory framework that supports access to home ownership and new housing supply while preventing repossessions.

The Government believe the Financial Service's Authority's changes must be proportionate and avoid unnecessary prescription on the mortgage industry.

My officials have worked closely with the Financial Services Authority and the Council of Mortgage Lenders on these proposals and will continue to do so. I have discussions with Treasury Ministers on a range of issues relating to my ministerial brief.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on financial assistance to first-time homebuyers who commit a large proportion of their income in mortgage payments in order to get on to the property ladder. [27601]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Poole (Mr Syms) on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 848W.

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the likely effect on *(a)* the housing market and *(b)* levels of home ownership of the Financial Services Authority's proposals on the mortgage market. [27991]

Grant Shapps: The new Government are committed to supporting aspiration to home ownership and share the underlying objective of the Mortgage Market Review to create a stable, sustainable market for all participants. We must avoid the boom and bust that the property market has experienced in the last decade.

We want to see a regulatory framework that supports access to home ownership and new housing supply while preventing repossessions.

The Government believe the Financial Service's Authority's changes must be proportionate and avoid unnecessary prescription on the mortgage industry.

My officials have worked closely with the Financial Services Authority and the Council of Mortgage Lenders on these proposals and will continue to do so. I have discussions with Treasury Ministers on a range of issues relating to my ministerial brief.

Public Expenditure

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether his Department plans to agree a budget settlement with local authorities for the whole of the spending review period; [27715]

(2) what arrangements his Department is making to provide information to local authorities on likely changes to their funding over the period of the comprehensive spending review in order to allow strategic budgetary planning. [27779]

Robert Neill: We will announce our proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2011-12 in the usual manner in due course.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average rent for social housing in Bolton as a proportion of local market rents in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the average rent for social housing in England as a proportion of market rents in the latest period for which figures are available. [28450]

Grant Shapps: Data on local authority average weekly rents by district in 2009-10 are available from the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1777605.xls

Data on average weekly RSL rents by district as at 31 March 2010 are available from the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141632.xls

Estimating market rents of social sector properties is not straightforward and different approaches can be taken. One example is in research carried out by Professor Steve Wilcox for DCLG where an assessment of regional social rents in comparison to market levels is made in terms of the capital value of the property, rental yield and housing association management and maintenance costs:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/rentspolicyanalysis

Our new delivery model for affordable housing will allow housing associations to set rents of up to 80% of market rent on some properties. The development of the delivery model will include specifying how market rents for housing association properties will be determined. We are working up our policy on the new delivery model at present and will publish more details early next year.

SCOTLAND

STV Independent Producer Status

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the decision not to grant STV independent producer status. [28243]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 530W.

Alternative Vote: Referendum

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Interim Electoral Management Board in Scotland on the proposed joint ballot for the referendum on the alternative vote and elections to the Scottish Parliament in 2010. [27687]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State has been in contact with the board on this matter. I have discussed it with the convener and will be having further discussions with her later this month.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with the First Minister on holding the referendum on the alternative vote system on the same day as the Scottish Parliament elections. [27871]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State last met the First Minister on 16 September, where they discussed a range of matters of importance to Scotland.

Asylum: Glasgow

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on the recent cancellation of a contract with Glasgow city council to house and support asylum seekers in Glasgow. [28240]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in regular contact with ministerial colleagues in the Home Office on matters related to immigration and asylum. In addition, senior officials in the Scotland Office have regular discussions with the UK Border Agency's Director for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the leader of Glasgow city council on the recent cancellation of a UK Border Agency contract with that council to house and support asylum seekers in Glasgow. [28239]

David Mundell: Both I and the Secretary of State for Scotland have had meetings with Councillor Gordon Matheson, the leader of Glasgow city council, most recently on 4 November, and discussed a range of matters of importance to Glasgow.

Clyde Naval Base

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the likely effect on the number of people employed at HMNB Clyde of the planned reduction in members of *(a)* the Civilian Ministry of Defence and *(b)* Royal Navy personnel. [27955]

David Mundell: In the discussions the Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) has had with the Secretary of State for Defence, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) it has been clear that it is still too early to judge the effects on specific locations of the planned reductions in the number of service and civilian personnel. He will discuss these issues again before his visit to HMNB Clyde early in 2011.

Departmental Official Visits

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he *(a)* last visited and *(b)* next plans to visit Glasgow East constituency. [27768]

Michael Moore: I have made a number of visits to Glasgow since my appointment and plan further such visits.

Domestic Violence: Housing Benefit

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* Scottish Women's Aid and *(b)* Glasgow East Women's Aid on the likely effects on victims of domestic abuse living in refuge accommodation in Scotland of proposed changes in housing benefit arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [27770]

Michael Moore: I have not had the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes in housing benefits arrangements with Scottish Women's Aid or Glasgow East Women's Aid.

Employment Schemes: Scotland

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the likely effects on Scotland of the timetable for implementing the Government's decision to end employment zones. [28241]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in regular contact with ministerial colleagues on the effects on Scotland of the development and implementation of the Work programme, which will be launched next year. The Government want to ensure that as many people benefit from the Work programme as soon as possible, and will launch the Work programme as soon as providers are ready to start delivery in each contract package area. It is not sustainable to run two sets of contracts simultaneously and we have started running down existing contracts in a way that is sensible and affordable. We expect the Work programme to be in place nationwide from summer 2011, and will ensure that nobody is left unsupported in the meantime.

Foreign Workers: Scotland

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the likely effects on Scotland of the Government's proposed cap on the number of non-EU migrants. [28242]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have been in regular contact with the Home Secretary on how changes in immigration policy will affect Scotland.

Fuel Poverty: Scotland

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he had with ministerial colleagues on the effect of energy price increases on the level of fuel poverty in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [28001]

David Mundell: Fuel poverty measures in Scotland are a matter for the Scottish Ministers. The UK Government welcome the announcement of Ofgem's review of the effectiveness of its recent consumer protection and competition measures. The Department for Energy and Climate Change is in discussion with the Scottish Government about how the powers in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill to implement the Green Deal in Scotland can best support the Scottish Government's fuel poverty targets. The Bill is to be launched this month.

Higher Education

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss student finance in respect of cross-border students since his appointment. [27870]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have been in regular contact with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a range of matters important to Scotland, including student finance.

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has received from universities in Scotland on student funding in respect of cross-border students. [27869]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not received any representations from universities in Scotland about student funding in relation to cross-border students.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on the likely effects of the planned reduction in spending on higher education on *(a)* higher education institutions in Scotland and *(b)* Clydebank College. [27956]

David Mundell: Policy and funding responsibility for further and higher education in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Government. It is for Scottish Ministers to consider the effects of their decisions on spending on higher education institutions and colleges in Scotland.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions on the likely effects of the implementation of proposed changes to housing benefit arrangement on people living in *(a)* social and *(b)* private rented housing in Scotland. [27957]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) has had a number of discussions on the proposed changes to housing benefit with a range of people.

Postal Services: Scotland

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effect on postal services in Scotland of the Government's plans for Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [28003]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) has regular exchanges with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) on a range of issues.

The Government are committed to securing the long term future of the Royal Mail and the Post Office—and to preserving the universal postal service for everyone in the UK. These twin objectives are at the heart of the Postal Services Bill.

Remploy: Scotland

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had in the *(a)* review of Remploy in Scotland and *(b)* likely effects of the outcomes of that review on the Remploy Frontline Textiles facility in Clydebank. [27954]

David Mundell: As part of the Government's commitment to increase the transparency and accountability of all public services we plan to substantially reform a large number of public bodies. The functions of Remploy are being reviewed as part of the reform process and are still under consideration.

Royal Mail

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he most recently met representatives of *(a)* sub-postmasters and *(b)* Royal Mail employees to discuss the Government's future plans for Royal Mail. [28002]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) recently met with representatives of Royal Mail Group when a range of issues including the Post Office network in Scotland was discussed.

Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2010

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Leader of the House on the timing of the laying of the draft Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2010. [27692]

David Mundell: Neither the Secretary of State for Scotland nor I have had discussions with the Leader of the House on the timing of the laying of the draft Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2010. The draft order was laid before Parliament on 25 October.

Tourism: Scotland

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the tourism industry in Scotland of the proposed increase in the rate of value added tax. [27767]

David Mundell: The VAT rise is part of the Government's credible plan to tackle the largest deficit in peacetime history. Difficult decisions are necessary, but we are creating the conditions needed for all businesses to grow. This will benefit the Scottish economy and a VAT rise is preferable to even steeper spending cuts that would damage our ability to grow the economy. In an international context, at 20%, the UK VAT rate will still be below the EU average.

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the compliance of his Department with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27848]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office's building contractors routinely use timber from sustainable sources.

Universities: Scotland

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what meetings he has had with representatives of universities in Scotland in the last four months. [27868]

David Mundell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 804W and 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 658W.

Voluntary Organisations: Public Expenditure

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent meetings he has had with *(a)* voluntary, *(b)* disability and *(c)* charity organisations in Scotland to discuss the effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [27610]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore) is in contact with a number of organisations in Scotland to discuss the effects of the outcomes of the spending review. The spending review sets out how the Government will carry out Britain's unavoidable plan to reduce the largest deficit in peacetime history. Alongside growth, the Government have prioritised fairness, including reforming the welfare system to put it on a sustainable long term footing, while providing sustained routes out of poverty for the poorest.

Women's Aid: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he *(a)* last visited and *(b)* next plans to visit (i) Scottish Women's Aid and (ii) Glasgow East Women's Aid. [27769]

Michael Moore: I have not yet had the opportunity to visit Scottish Women's Aid or Glasgow East Women's Aid.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assumptions he has made in respect of global carbon prices in 2030. [28021]

Gregory Barker: DECC calculates carbon values to be used across Government in the assessment of the costs and benefits of energy and climate change policies:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/valuation/valuation.aspx

The approach used to calculate the global 2030 carbon value is based on the abatement cost in 2030 required to achieve a global emission trajectory that is likely to limit dangerous climate change to less than two degrees centigrade. Based on this approach, our current analysis suggest a central carbon value in 2030 of £70/tCO_2e (in 2009 prices).

Energy Supply: Costs

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to enable Ofgem to require major energy providers to disclose the price they pay for energy supplies. [27105]

Charles Hendry: Currently we have no plans to bring forward the proposals the hon. Member asks about. Following their probe into energy retail markets, Ofgem introduced new rules requiring the big six energy suppliers to publish segmental reports including details of the revenues, costs and profits of their generation and supply of electricity and supply of gas. These reports contain details of each supplier's total fuel costs and volumes.

The reports for each supplier can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/location%20of%20these%20accounting%20statements%20on%20each%20suppliers%20website.pdf

In addition, we support Ofgem's recently announced review into the effectiveness of the retail energy market. This will, among other things, scrutinise these segmental reports to see if further action is needed to protect consumers. This announcement is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/PressRel/Documents1/Retail%20Market%2026%20November.pdf

Heating: Fluorocarbons

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he made of the level of consumption of fluorocarbons attributable to the recharging of heat pumps *(a)* nationally and *(b)* on the Government estate in the latest year for which figures are available. [27949]

Gregory Barker: A DECC/DEFRA recent review of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) consumption and emissions forecasting estimated that 0.05 kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalence of HFCs was emitted from ground source heat pumps in the UK in 2008, based on 3,500 installed heat pumps. No estimates are available for the proportion of these emissions that are from the Government estate. The review emphasises that these estimates are very small in relation to HFCs emissions from other sectors.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy providers to draw on their international experience to assist the on-schedule delivery of new nuclear builds in the UK. [27121]

Charles Hendry: I have regular discussions with the energy providers and it is clear that it is in their interest to draw on their experience of new build nuclear around the world to assist with delivery in the UK.

At the last Nuclear Development Forum on 28 October I also announced the publication of an Engineering the Future report "Nuclear Lessons Learned"[1] which highlights the lessons learnt from design and construction experience, and those learnt from reflection during operation. It highlights good practice and interventions that have worked well and will help all project stakeholders to utilise efficiencies and understand and limit risk, and to minimise potential overruns and delays, which are both expensive and reduce public confidence.

[1] Available from:

http://www.raeng.org.uk/news/publications/list/reports/Nuclear_Lessons_Learned_Oct10.pdf

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 648W, on renewable energy, what definition of the term hermetically sealed he uses. [28075]

Gregory Barker: Hermetically sealed suggests a system that is impervious to air or gas, i.e. a gas tight heat pump where in normal operation the risk of refrigerant leakage is very small. In such systems the refrigerant flows around pipe work that is continuous, with few mechanical joints.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many representations his Department has received from domestic users of onsite renewable energy techniques who *(a)* installed technology with the assistance of and *(b)* received support from his Department before July 2009. [27608]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold the information in the form requested and the details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Sheffield Forgemasters

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings he has had with Sheffield Forgemasters since 1 September 2010; and if he will make a statement. [27122]

Charles Hendry: Neither I nor my officials have had any meetings with the company since 1 September 2010 and none have been requested.

As the Secretary of State for Business stated in his written ministerial statement to the House on the 27 July this year:

> "The Government's decision to cancel the £80 million loan for a new 15,000 tonne press that had been conditionally offered to Sheffield Forgemasters by the last government was taken on the grounds of affordability. Sheffield Forgemasters is a great British company with a dedicated, highly-skilled workforce and a strong senior management team. The Government's decision is no reflection on the company's staff, directors or this particular project".

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether his Department has plans to encourage the integration of *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment services for HIV and tuberculosis in international programmes to reduce their incidence; and if he will make a statement; [27952]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of international programmes to reduce the number of people living with HIV who die from tuberculosis. [27953]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government will continue to support programmes that focus on both HIV and tuberculosis (TB), and on strengthening underlying health systems in order to improve the way health services diagnose and treat illnesses, including TB and TB-HIV co-infection.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing all its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to ensure UK aid is effective, represents value for money and accelerates progress towards all the millennium development goals. As set out in DFID's Business Plan 2011-15, we will specify our objectives on restricting the spread of diseases like TB, HIV, and malaria by May 2011.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect of HIV/tuberculosis co-infection on maternal and child mortality; and what plans he has to address this issue in his Department's Maternal Health Business Plan. [28088]

Mr O'Brien: HIV and tuberculosis (TB) co-infection is a risk factor for maternal and newborn mortality and child survival. The UK Government believe the interaction is most effectively tackled by prevention strategies as well as strengthening health systems and services overall. We believe it is important to support an integrated approach to health services delivery, including TB and HIV screening as part of routine antenatal and postpartum care.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing all its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes to ensure UK aid is effective, represents value for money and accelerates progress towards all the millennium development goals.

The Framework for Action for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health will be published by the end of the year and we will specify our objectives on restricting the spread of diseases like TB, HIV, and malaria by May 2011.

Food: Prices

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* food prices and *(b)* food security in developing countries of financial speculation on agricultural commodities; and if he will make a statement. [28458]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 617W, on Developing Countries: Food.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he has issued to Access to Work advisers in the last 12 months; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such item of guidance. [23319]

Maria Miller: Guidance for Access to Work advisers is regularly reviewed and updated. In the last 12 months there have been six updates of the Access to Work guidance product. I have made arrangements for each version to be placed in the Library.

Access to Work Programme: North East

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Gateshead borough participated in the Access to Work programme in each year since 2007-08. [22078]

Maria Miller: The following table the number of individuals helped on the Access to Work programme each year since April 2007 and up to 30 June 2010[1]:

Area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Q1 2010-11*
North East Government office region	1,760	1,890	2,190	1,310
Gateshead local authority	160	180	210	130
Gateshead parliamentary constituency	60	70	70	40
Great Britain	27,730	32,130	37,300	24,340

[1] Source Access to Work database.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Atos

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used to determine geographic location of each testing centre used by Atos under its contract with his Department. [27661]

Chris Grayling: The Department is committed to provide a network of medical assessment centres that ensure no customer is required to travel more than 90 minutes by public transport to attend a centre. Atos Healthcare operate a network of over 100 centres and their precise location and size takes into account convenience of public transport and local demand for assessment services, as well as the need to keep customer journey times below 90 minutes.

Biocidal Products: EU Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of products offered for sale in the UK which are prohibited under the terms of the EU Biocidal Products Directive in the latest period for which figures are available. [23054]

Chris Grayling: There are currently a large number of biocidal products that are legally on the UK market without an authorisation under the Biocidal Products Directive (BPD). These products contain active substances that are still being reviewed under the BPD for their potential future inclusion in annex I. Once these reviews are completed, individual products will be assessed and authorised; however, whilst the reviews are taking place the products can continue to be placed onto the market without the need for an authorisation under the directive. The review process began in 2000 but is still in its early stages with decisions reached only on the inclusion of around 40 substances in annex I of the BPD.

Where industry has chosen not to support an active substance in the BPD, or exceptionally, where a substance has been assessed and found not to meet the criteria for inclusion (sufficient safety and effectiveness) an EU-level 'non-inclusion' decision is taken and a date is set by which the substance has to be taken off the market. The main tranche of active substances required to be withdrawn under the BPD had to be taken off the market by 1 September 2006, though since then a number of other active substances have been subject to non-inclusion decisions where companies have failed to support them. The latest of these was voted on in February 2010, and requires 14 substance/product type combinations to be taken off the market by 1 November 2011.

Whenever the Helath and Safety Executive has been made aware of products containing substances that are no longer on the market for this reason, it has taken appropriate action by passing the relevant information on to the appropriate enforcing authorities, usually the local trading standards authority.

Complaints: Atos

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* formal complaints and *(b)* representations containing complaints his Department has received in respect of its contract with Atos in the last 24 months. [27659]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not collate data to enable the reporting of the total number of complaints it receives regarding the medical services contract with Atos Healthcare. However the number of complaints received directly by Atos Healthcare from customers over the last 24 months is in the following table together with the percentage of complaints to examinations completed in that quarter.

Period	*Number of complaints received*	*Percentage of assessments resulting in a complaint*
June to August 2010	1,154	0.58
March to May 2010	1,184	0.57
December 2009 to February 2010	1,003	0.53
September to November 2009	1,170	0.58
June to August 2009	1,002	0.48
March to May 2009	966	0.49
December 2008 to February 2009	618	0.41
September 2008 to November 2008	739	0.45

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 832W, on departmental sick leave, what information he holds on types of absence other than sickness absence in respect of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [27306]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions collates information on a range of absences provided for by legislation and our terms and conditions of employment.

The different absences recorded by the Department are shown as follows.

Absence category	*Paid or unpaid*	*Examples of the information collected*
Accident—injury work related	Paid	Number of people Length of time
Additional duties	Paid	Trade union duties Trade union activities Health and safety trade union rep Harassment, discrimination and bullying investigations Fire and bomb training First aid training
Annual leave/public and privilege leave	Paid	Not held centrally Clerical records maintained, but not collated
Adoption leave	Paid and unpaid	Length of time taken (ordinary adoption leave) Length of time taken (additional adoption leave)
Assault work related	Paid	Length of time
Parental leave	Unpaid	Length of time
Part time on medical grounds absence	Paid and unpaid	Length of time
Flexi leave	Paid	Number of days taken
Long service award—leave	Paid	Number of people
Maternity leave	Paid and unpaid	Length of time taken (ordinary maternity leave) Length of time taken (additional maternity leave)
Paternity leave	Paid and unpaid	Length of time taken as paid leave Length of time taken as unpaid leave in statutory period Length of time taken as unpaid leave outside statutory period
Special leave—armed forces	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—awaiting reasonable adjustments	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—bereavement	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—bereavement pandemic flu	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken

Absence category	*Paid or unpaid*	*Examples of the information collected*
Special leave—compassionate leave	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—compassionate leave pandemic flu	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—emergency leave	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—further education leave	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—other health and disability leave	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—public and community leave	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—trade union related	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Special leave—carers leave	Unpaid	Length of time taken
Special leave—holiday leave	Unpaid	Length of time taken
Special leave—transfer/following partner leave	Paid and unpaid	Number of days taken
Suspension from duty	Paid	Length of time taken
Time off in lieu	Paid	Length of time taken
Successful third party claims	Paid	Length of time taken
Unauthorised absence/strike	Unpaid	Length of time taken

Disability Living Allowance: Gwent

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Islwyn constituency were in receipt of disability living allowance in each year since 1997. [27316]

Maria Miller: The information is reproduced in the following table.

Number of disability living allowance recipients in Islwyn parliamentary constituency since May 1997

As at May	*Number*
2010	7,200
2009	6,330
2008	6,190
2007	6,070
2006	5,940
2005	5,810
2004	5,660
2003	5,500
2002	5,270
2001	4,900
2000	4,600
1999	4,300
1998	4,300
1997	4,000

Number of disability living allowance recipients in Islwyn parliamentary constituency since May 1997

Notes:

1. Figures from May 1997 to May 2001 are taken from 5% sample data. They have been uprated to be consistent with WPLS data and are rounded to the nearest 100. Figures from May 2002 onwards are taken from WPLS 100% data and are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

3. Constituencies used for May 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.

4. These figures are published at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paqe=tabtool
and in the House of Commons Library.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Disabled: Public Expenditure

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has set targets for the number of disabled people it employs in each year of the spending review period. [26809]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions has targets in place for the number of disabled people it employs. The current targets were set for the period to March 2011 in line with 'Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity—A Strategy for the Civil Service'. The Department will be reviewing the position beyond March 2011 shortly.

Department for Work and Pensions: disability representation at different civil service grades (June 2010)

Employee grade	Disabled staff June 2010	Percentage Target March 2011
Senior Civil Service	5.0	5.2
Grade 6/Band G	4.6	5.2
Grade 7/Band F	4.6	5.2
SEO/Band E and HEO/Band D	6.0	5.5
Band EO/C, Band AO/B and Band AA/A	6.5	6.0

Notes:

1. The representation rate is calculated from the number of people who have chosen to declare their disability status. This is the method recommended by the Office for National Statistics.
2. Data are sourced from the Department's internal HR information systems.
3. Civil Service grades cover a diverse range of roles in different posts and functions. Senior Civil Service grade roles are at deputy director, director or director general level, Grade 6/Band G and Grade 7/Band F jobs can be described as senior management roles, SEO/Band E, HEO/Band D and EO/Band C roles are managerial grades, and AO/Band B and AA/Band A grades are administrative roles.

Progress to June 2010 (the latest published figures) is set out in the table. Further information on the Department's progress to meet these targets is published in the Department's "Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes Annual Progress Report 2009-10". An electronic copy of this document is available on the Department's website.

Drugs: Nottingham

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many problem drug users resident in *(a)* Nottingham, *(b)* Plymouth and *(c)* Wolverhampton received out-of-work benefits in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [25002]

Maria Miller: Drug and alcohol addiction is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty, and helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction so that they can recover and find employment is a top priority for the Government.

Information on the number of problem drug users receiving out-of-work benefits is not available for the geographical breakdown requested. However, we do have data on the number of claimants of disability benefits (incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and (from February 2010) employment and support allowance) for whom the main disabling condition is listed as drug abuse. It should be noted that these figures refer to claimants whose problems relate to any drugs (including prescription drugs), as opposed to problem drug users (heroin and crack cocaine), and that, as people who do not report drug abuse as their main disabling condition are not captured, they represent a subset of all claimants of these benefits with a drug problem.

Details are set out in Table I as follows. Note that drug dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to disability benefits.

Table 1: Incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and (for May 2010) employment and support allowance claimants with main disabling condition of drug abuse, May 2005 to May 2010

May	Great Britain	Wolverhampton	Nottingham	Plymouth
2005	47,980	190	420	670
2006	48,560	210	470	700
2007	49,890	210	520	700
2008	51,280	230	530	750
2009	44,730	180	430	650
2010	48,170	190	450	710

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10 claimants.
2. These figures refer to claimants whose problems relate to any drugs (including prescription ones), as opposed to problem drug users (heroin and crack cocaine).
3. These figures represent a subset of all claimants of these benefits with a drug problem as people who do not report drug abuse as their main disabling condition are not captured.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) for new claimants in October 2008, however information on medical condition is not available on ESA prior to February 2010. Therefore, the figures for May 2010 include ESA claimants but those for May 2009 do not. This should be taken into consideration when interpreting any trends over time.
5. Great Britain total includes a small number of cases resident abroad.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Employment and Support Allowance

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional support his Department will put in place to ensure that the needs of employment and support allowance claimants with long-term and fluctuating health conditions are recognised during work capability assessments. [26803]

Chris Grayling: The needs of customers with fluctuating and long term conditions are taken into account during the WCA. The assessment is not a snapshot of the effects of a customer's condition or conditions on one day but involves consideration of how those effects will change and fluctuate over time. The health care professionals who carry out the assessments are trained to take account of fluctuating conditions.

However, we are aware of concerns in this area, and are determined to ensure that the WCA accurately assesses individual's capability for work, and that we improve that accuracy continually over time.

A Department-led review of the WCA made recommendations that will improve the sensitivity of the WCA to fluctuating conditions and these changes will be implemented next April. In addition, Professor Harrington published an independent review of the WCA on 23 November 2010, and the Government have accepted his recommendations to make the assessment process more empathetic and less mechanistic. The next independent review, which is also being led by Professor Harrington, will look specifically at further improvements to the assessment in relation to fluctuating conditions.

Employment Schemes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Work programme. [24619]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme will be a black-box, outcome funded programme rewarding delivery partners from the benefit savings generated. Payments to delivery partners will be made for moving customers into work and keeping customers in work. As we will be paying by results after they have occurred, from the savings generated, the cost to the public purse will be driven by the level of performance achieved.

At this time we are in competitive tendering process for the Work programme. We expect organisations bidding for the Work programme to state in their bids the level of performance they expect to achieve and compete on the price they require. This will enable us to let contracts on the most advantageous economic terms. Until this process is complete indicating Government expectations of Work programme performance and so cost would prejudice our ability to generate optimum value for money for the taxpayer.

Employment: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the jobs filled in Colchester constituency in October 2010 following advertisement of a vacancy via Jobcentre Plus were *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time. [27583]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about how many of the jobs filled in Colchester constituency in October 2010 following advertisement of a vacancy via Jobcentre Plus were (a) part-time and (b) full-time. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Darra Singh as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Darra Singh is currently not available, I am replying in his absence.

Information about the number of vacancies handled by Jobcentre Plus in Colchester is in the table.

Vacancy information for Colchester parliamentary constituency: October 2010

	Full-time[2] *vacancies*	*Part-time*[2] *vacancies*
Notified vacancies[1]	807	298
Live unfilled vacancies[1]	608	189
Total vacancy outflow[3]	748	233

[1] Includes self-employed vacancies.
[2] Part-time vacancies are for jobs involving less than 30 hours work per week and full-time are for jobs involving 30 hours or more work per week.
[3] Vacancy outflow. The count of vacancies that have either been filled by Jobcentre Plus or withdrawn during the specified month.
Source:
ONS Nomis

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27510]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions currently has three EU directives pending transposition into domestic legislation:

Directive on equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity (2010/41/EU). The estimated cost of transposition is a maximum of £8.16 million per annum. Administrative costs have not yet been assessed.

Health and Safety Directive establishing a third List of Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (2009/161/EU). The costs to business of transposition are likely to be minimal. Administrative costs are estimated at £287,000.

Health and Safety Directive implementing the framework agreement on preventing injuries from sharp instruments in the hospital and healthcare sector (2010/32/EU). An impact assessment of the costs to business has not yet been completed but costs are likely to be low. Administrative costs are estimated at £141,600.

Flexible New Deal Programme

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the payment arrangements for Flexible New Deal providers are for *(a)* initial referral onto the Flexible New Deal programme, *(b)* a 13 week sustainable outcome, *(c)* a 26 week sustainable outcome and *(d)* incidental payments, including travel or training allowances. [27321]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a), (b) and (c)

Payments to Flexible New Deal providers vary from contract to contract. There is no payment for an initial referral or start on FND, although providers are paid a monthly service fee based on customer volumes. Although there are no fixed prices for job outcomes, the original expectation when Flexible New Deal contracts were due to last five years was that service fees would equate to 26% of the total contract value over five years, short job outcome payments (13 weeks) to 47% and sustained job outcome payments (26 weeks) to 27%. Actual percentages will not be known until contract closure negotiations are completed.

(d) Incidental payments including travel or training allowances

FND participants may undertake periods of training in addition to a four week Mandatory Work Related Activity. Jobcentre Plus will pay a training allowance at the rate of the customer's current benefit for the duration of these activities. Incidental costs such as child care cost and travel expenses which providers disburse are included in the overall funding they receive from DWP as part of the overall contract price.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27356]

Chris Grayling: The Department has no record of any entertainment expenditure relating to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Housing Benefit

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the proposed changes to local housing allowance on the level of use of the provisions of section 20 of the Children Act 1989 in respect of accommodation for children in need. [26656]

Steve Webb: We are publishing an impact assessment along with the Housing Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2010 which give effect to our changes to the local housing allowance arrangements from April 2011.

There is no reason to believe that there should be an increase in the number of children with a housing need. We have a substantial package of financial and practical support in place, including up to nine months' transitional protection from a reduction in the local housing allowance rate. This will ensure that for the small number of households that do have to move, it will be managed in a careful way.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit advisers Jobcentre Plus employs. [27297]

Maria Miller: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Incapacity Benefits (IB) advisers Jobcentre Plus employs. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus stopped recording the number of IB advisers it employed at the end of the 2009/10 year. The Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), which was introduced in October 2008, replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on incapacity grounds for new customers. As time progressed, it became increasingly difficult to differentiate between the IB and ESA advisers role. From the start of this year therefore, we agreed a single description for advisers involved in providing ESA advice. The latest published data at June 2010 shows Jobcentre Plus employed 896 full time equivalents on ESA advisory work.

This data is drawn from an internal Departmental system used to monitor staff deployment trends.

Incapacity Benefit: Gwent

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of adults of working age in Islwyn constituency claimed incapacity benefits in each year since 1997. [27318]

Maria Miller: The information requested is given in the following table:

Working age claimants of incapacity benefits in Islwyn parliamentary constituency

	Incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance	*Percentage of Islwyn working age population*	*Employment and support allowance*	*Percentage of Islwyn working age population*	*Working age population estimates*[1]
May:					
1997	6,200	15.8	—	—	39,039
1998	6,000	15.4	—	—	39,039
1999	6,100	15.6	—	—	39,039
2000	6,110	15.7	—	—	39,039
2001	6,160	15.8	—	—	39,039
2002	6,190	15.8	—	—	39,272
2003	6,170	15.7	—	—	39,373
2004	5,970	15.1	—	—	39,677
2005	5,870	14.7	—	—	39,817
2006	5,810	14.4	—	—	40,211
2007	5,490	13.7	—	—	40,099
2008	5,160	12.9	—	—	40,099
2009	4,540	11.3	500	1.3	40,099
2010	4,540	11.3	990	2.5	40,099

[1] Please be aware that the population estimates used are experimental statistics and do not yet meet the quality standards of National Statistics. These are unrevised estimates and are not consistent with the latest mid-year population estimates by local authority. They are due to be revised early next year and will be published along with the estimates by parliamentary constituency for mid-2008 and mid-2009.

Notes:

1. May 1997 to May 1999 figures are based on sample data and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. 5% sample figures are rounded to the nearest hundred, and 100% caseloads to the nearest ten.
3. 5% sample figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
5. Published benefit data will reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituencies from May 2010 data (published November 2010) onwards.
6. Prior to May 2010, the Westminster parliamentary constituencies for 2005 have been used.
7. Population estimates are not available by parliamentary constituency for the following periods: 1997 to 2000—mid-2001 estimates used 2008 to 2010—mid-2007 estimates used.
8. State pension age began to increase from April 2010.
9. Working age has been defined here as for pre-April 2010.
10. Population estimates are unrounded.

Source:

1997-1999 figures Information Directorate 5% samples. 2000 onwards DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data. Population Estimates—Office for National Statistics.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on lone parent students of the transition from income support to jobseeker's allowance; [27045]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on lone parent students of *(a)* reducing and *(b)* withdrawing income support during their studies. [27044]

Chris Grayling: Prior to November 2008 lone parents could claim income support until their youngest child reached 16. This age has been progressively reduced, and currently lone parents with a youngest child aged seven and over wishing to claim benefit have to claim jobseeker's allowance if they are capable of work.

Lone parents who are in receipt of income support and are full-time students or undertaking a full-time course on the new deal for lone parents programme (or as part of an approved scheme) prior to the change can remain entitled to income support until they finish their course or their youngest child reaches the relevant age in force at the time they started the course, whichever happens first.

Lone parents who decide to undertake a full-time course after the income support entitlement change came into force will not be able to claim jobseeker's allowance but may be able to access support from the educational maintenance system which, unlike the social security system, is designed for their needs. Lone parents studying part-time can claim jobseeker's allowance but need to demonstrate they are available for and actively seeking work.

Independent Living Fund

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which disability organisations the Minister with responsibility for disabled people has met to discuss the future of the independent living fund. [27612]

Maria Miller: I have met with a number of disability organisations and other bodies to discuss the future of the independent living fund: the chair of Equality 2025; the All Party Parliamentary Group on Disability; the Disability Charities Consortium and the Disabled People's Organisations Group; and the Independent Living Fund Advisory Group. I have also met with other disability organisations individually, including speaking with the National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL), and will continue to do so as we consider the future of the independent living fund in the context of the spending review.

I have also had meetings with the trustees and management of the independent living fund and held telephone meetings with devolved Administrations.

Jobcentre Plus: Post Offices

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what Jobcentre Plus services his Department plans to make available via the post office network; and how many Jobcentre Plus staff he expects to be deployed in post offices. [27392]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what Jobcentre Plus services his Department plans to make available via the Post Office network; and how many Jobcentre Plus staff he expects to be deployed in post offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Coalition Government policy statement 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age' published on 9 November 2010 sets out the services which the Department for Work and Pensions is considering piloting with the Post Office.

Jobcentre Plus, as part of the Department for Work and Pensions, is actively considering opportunities to work closely with the Post Office. This includes exploring the potential to make more use of the Post Office network, for example to support Jobcentre Plus in the administration of the National Insurance Number application process. No decisions have been taken about whether there is sufficient potential to merit piloting any of the opportunities being considered. There is no intention at this stage to locate Jobcentre Plus staff in Post Office premises.

Jobcentre Plus already provides outreach services in over 1,500 partner premises including community centres, children's centres, prisons and schools. The extent of co-location can vary from a few hours each week to a full time presence. These decisions are taken by local managers in conjunction with partner organisations to meet local need.

It is our intention to take a positive and constructive approach to identify opportunities to work more closely with the Post Office to deliver a service that represents best value for our customers and the taxpayer.

Jobcentre Plus Advisers: Claimant Commitment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the effects on the number of Jobcentre Plus advisers will be of the Government's proposed Claimant Commitment. [27391]

Chris Grayling: At present jobseekers are required to agree a jobseeker's agreement with their personal adviser. The introduction of the Claimant Commitment strengthens this existing requirement and extends it to other benefits. It will be integrated into the existing claims process and will help streamline current, benefit-specific actions. As such, the commitment is expected to have a minimal impact on Jobcentre Plus resource requirements.

Medical Checks: Atos

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the duration is of his Department's contract with Atos in respect of medical checks on benefit claimants. [27662]

Chris Grayling: Following a competitive tender exercise the Medical Services Agreement between Atos Healthcare and the Department for Work and Pensions was awarded on 15 March 2005 by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The contract went live on 1 September 2005, for a period of seven years, with options to extend for a further three and two years. On 1 November 2010 I awarded a contract extension to 31 August 2015 to facilitate the delivery of incapacity benefit reassessment. The new disability living allowance assessment service from 2013, is not included in the extension but will be awarded through a competitive tendering process.

Medical Examinations: Atos

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value is of his Department's contract with Atos in respect of medical checks on benefit claimants. [27655]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions awarded Atos Origin IT Services Ltd. trading as Atos Healthcare, the contract to provide medical services on behalf of the Department from 1 September 2005. The total cost of these services amounts to approximately £100 million per annum. This figure not only covers the total number of examinations undertaken across all benefits, but also costs relating to written and verbal medical advice, fixed overheads, administrative costs, investment in new technology and other service improvements.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what performance standards are required in his Department's contract with Atos in respect of medical checks on benefit claimants; and what the outcome has been of performance assessments of Atos undertaken by his Department in the last 24 months. [27656]

Chris Grayling: The Department manages all aspects of performance and service delivery of the medical services contract through the monitoring of: service level performance, quality audits and complaints.

The contractual agreement between DWP and Atos Healthcare contains numerous performance targets covering a wide range of features including throughput, customer service and medical quality. Schedule 5 of the contract details the service levels DWP requires from Atos Healthcare. A copy of the contract is available in the House of Commons Library

http://deposits.parliament.uk

then click on Dep2010-1704.zip. The relevant files are titled, Clauses.pdf, New Contract Index.pdf and Schedules 1 to 33.pdf

The medical quality target is that, based on rolling three month data, no more than 5% of reports should be classed as a C grade, defined as:

Key requirements are not satisfied to the extent that the product fails to meet Atos Healthcare Professional Standards.

Results for the last 24 months are:

Percentage

	Employment and support allowance assessments	*Incapacity benefit assessments*	*IB scrutiny*	*Disability living allowance/ attendance allowance assessments*	*Industrial injuries disablement benefit assessments*	*ESA file work*	*Overall*
2010							
October	3.9	3.9	3.2	3.9	1.7	1.1	2.6
September	4.6	3.2	3.0	3.9	2.1	1.2	2.8
August	4.2	3.8	2.1	4.5	1.6	1.6	2.8
July	4.0	4.2	1.8	4.5	1.6	1.2	2.7
June	3.9	4.5	1.4	4.9	1.8	0.7	2.5
May	3.4	3.7	2.0	4.2	2.2	0.5	2.2
April	3.7	2.9	1.6	5.2	1.9	0.5	2.3
March	3.2	2.1	2.0	3.9	1.2	0.5	2.0
February	3.8	2.0	1.9	4.3	1.8	0.7	2.2
January	3.7	2.3	2.5	3.6	2.0	0.7	2.3
2009							
December	4.2	2.7	1.8	3.3	2.5	0.7	2.3
November	4.6	2.7	1.6	3.9	2.0	0.4	2.3
October	4.3	3.2	1.6	4.3	2.4	0.5	2.2
September	4.0	3.6	1.8	4.6	1.6	0.9	2.3
August	3.5	3.6	2.1	3.4	1.2	1.2	2.2
July	4.7	3.7	2.1	2.9	1.6	1.4	2.3
June	5.7	4.5	3.5	4.0	2.4	1.2	3.0
May	—	5.6	3.2	4.1	3.5	—	3.3
April	—	4.3	3.2	3.8	2.6	—	2.7
March	—	4.0	1.8	3.7	1.9	—	2.1
February	—	2.9	1.6	4.3	1.3	—	2.1
January	—	4.1	0.9	3.9	1.3	—	2.1
2008							
December	—	4.0	1.4	4.0	1.5	—	2.2
November	—	5.1	1.5	3.9	2.4	—	2.1

Figures are not available for employment and support allowance up to May 2009. This is due to the volume of referrals not presenting a statistically valid sample size during that period.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how frequently his Department receives performance reports under its contract with Atos in respect of medical checks on benefit claimants. [27657]

Chris Grayling: Schedule 16 of the Medical Services Contract contains a full list of the Management Information Reports received and their frequency. Additional performance and quality reports can be requested as required.

A copy of the contract is available in the House of Commons Library:

http://deposits.parliament.uk/

then click on Dep2010-1704.zip. The relevant files are titled, Clauses.pdf, New Contract Index.pdf and Schedules 1 to 33.pdf.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what tender process Atos won the contract with his Department for medical checks on benefit claimants. [27658]

Chris Grayling: The Medical Services Contract was re-let by means of open competitive tender as advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). The award was based around the most economically advantageous tender in terms of the criteria as stated in the contract, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library:

http://deposits.parliament.uk/

then click on Dep2010-1704.zip. The relevant files are titled, Clauses.pdf, New Contract Index.pdf and Schedules 1 to 33.pdf

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms will be put in place to support disabled home owners whose disability prevents them from earning an income. [27393]

Maria Miller: Disabled home owners who are entitled to income-related employment and support allowance or income support, may receive an additional element called support for mortgage interest. This makes a contribution towards the interest on eligible loans taken out to purchase the property. It also makes a contribution towards specific loans for repairs and improvements which are necessary to maintain the home's fitness for habitation or to loans taken out to adapt a home to meet the special needs of a disabled person.

Parents: New Businesses

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides to new parents seeking to resume work by starting a business; and if he will make a statement. [28082]

Chris Grayling: Jobseekers, including new parents, interested in self-employment or starting a business are signposted to a range of information and advice from the start of their jobseeker's allowance claim.

At present, from the 13 week stage of a jobseeker's claim, support, including business advice, workshops and mentoring, is made available. Eligible jobseekers can also receive the Self-Employment Credit (SEC) of £50 a week for up to 16 weeks when they leave jobseeker's allowance and start trading. These arrangements will continue until March 2011.

We are replacing the current arrangements with the New Enterprise Allowance scheme. This is being developed to promote self-employment as a route off benefits and into financial independence for customers who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more. It will initially be targeted on areas in Great Britain facing the greatest unemployment challenge.

Customers will have access to a mentor as they prepare to move into self-employment. They will be entitled to financial support provided they can demonstrate they have a viable business proposition. This will include a weekly allowance for up to 26 weeks and access to loan finance of up to £1,000.

We intend to trail blaze the mentoring and loan elements of the new self-employment offer in one or two areas from the end of January 2011, before rolling out the full New Enterprise Allowance from April.

Retirement: EU Countries

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on EU member states which do not have a default retirement age. [17197]

Steve Webb: Legal frameworks relating to retirement differ widely between member states, though all are covered by the EU framework directive. In the strictest sense, no other EU countries have a default retirement age, as this is specific to UK legislation. DWP and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills monitor developments in member states' policies, and are aware that some countries do operate or have operated retirement ages in at least some sectors. However, decisions on the details of legislation in this area must be made in the context of the UK's economy and legal framework.

As part of the review of the default retirement age, DWP commissioned a comparative review of international approaches to mandatory retirement. This review compared the UK with France, Ireland and Sweden, along with five countries outside the EU. The report 'A comparative Review of International Approaches to Mandatory Retirement, 2010' is available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010//rrep674.pdf#

Social Fund

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the Social Fund. [26790]

Steve Webb: Our plans for reforming the Social Fund were set out in the White Paper "Universal Credit: Welfare that works" (CM 7957) published on 11 November 2010.

Social Security Benefits

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* recipients of benefits were paid and *(b)* benefit payments were made (i) by direct debit into bank accounts and (ii) via the Post Office network through the Post Office card account in each of the last three years. [27789]

Steve Webb: Information is not available in the precise format requested.

The following table shows the number of benefit and pension accounts paid (i) by direct payment into bank accounts and (ii) via the Post Office network through the Post Office card account in each of the last three years.

Million

	Bank account	*Post Office card account*
2008	16.0	4.0
2009	17.2	3.9
2010	17.9	3.8

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded and relate to GB payment accounts live and in payment as at April of each year.
2. Customers may be in receipt of more than one benefit and therefore may be counted more than once.
3. Child benefit and war pensions are no longer administered by DWP and have therefore been excluded.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of women over the age of 50 years who will have their state pension age raised by more than one year as a result of the implementation of the proposal to raise the state pension age to 66 years by 2020. [27642]

Steve Webb: Women born between 6 October 1953 and 5 April 1955 will have their state pension age raised by more than one year, compared to the timetable set by the Pensions Act 1995. The most recent population estimates indicate that there were approximately 500,000 women resident in Great Britain who were born in this period.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review state pension arrangements for expatriates. [28341]

Steve Webb: The UK state pension is payable world-wide but is only up-rated abroad where there is a legal requirement or reciprocal agreement to do so. A well known court case challenging the UK's position was heard by the European Court of Human Rights' Grand Chamber in September 2009 and the Court's judgment of March 2010 was in the UK's favour.

We continue to take our obligations under the terms of the European Convention on Human Rights seriously and are satisfied that we are complying. We therefore have no plans to make any changes to the current arrangements.

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27853]

Chris Grayling: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) comply with the UK Government's Timber Procurement Policy which requires central Departments to purchase legal and sustainable or Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licensed timber and wood derived products. This means all timber and wood derived products are independently certified by either the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs takes responsibility to ensure that the Timber Procurement Policy addresses other criteria for sourcing sustainable timber, such as that of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Remploy, one of the Department's NDPBs, is also a manufacturer. The wood machining sites of its commercial furniture manufacturing business have FSC accreditation, as do their suppliers.

The Department, its agencies and NDPBs have systems in place to ensure UK Government policy is adhered to.

Unemployment: Owner Occupation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to mitigate the risk of home-owners losing their homes in the event of becoming unemployed; and if he will make a statement. [27087]

Steve Webb: Unemployed home-owners entitled to income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support, may receive an additional element called Support for Mortgage Interest. This makes a contribution towards the interest on eligible loans taken out to purchase the property, and specific loans for repairs and improvements which are necessary to maintain the home's fitness for habitation.

The Government expect to see lenders continuing to offer support and forbearance to their customers who are struggling with their mortgage. We are also exploring with mortgage lenders the scope for them to "freeze" benefit claimants' mortgage accounts and apply a standard interest rate for a fixed period.

Universal Credit: Welfare

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 15 of his White Paper entitled "Universal Credit: welfare that works", what assessment he has made of the likely effects on HM Revenue and Customs of his Department administering the universal benefit; and if he will make a statement. [24897]

Chris Grayling: There will be significant changes and efficiencies effecting the administration arrangements for both DWP and HMRC as a result of the introduction of Universal Credit.

Over time, the financial support currently delivered by HMRC through tax credits will be replaced by Universal Credit. This process will not be completed until Universal Credit is fully in place, around four years after implementation begins in 2013. The extent of the changes and efficiencies will depend on the eventual design of Universal Credit and its delivery.

I am working closely with my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury to ensure a smooth transition to Universal Credit for both DWP and HMRC.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 8 of his White Paper entitled "Universal Credit: welfare that works", what steps he plans to take to ensure that no individual will experience a reduction in the benefit they receive as a result of the introduction of universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [24899]

Chris Grayling: The introduction of Universal Credit will allow people to keep more earnings from small amounts of regular work.

In managing the transition to Universal Credit we will make sure that those who will gain most from the incentive to work will move in the first phase, and that no-one whose circumstances are unchanged, will see their entitlement reduced when they move on to Universal Credit.

Work Capability Assessment Review

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy on its contract with Atos of the recommendations of the independent work capability assessment review led by Professor Richard Harrington. [27660]

Chris Grayling: The Medical Services Agreement between Atos Healthcare and the Department for Work and Pensions commenced on 1 September 2005 for a period of seven years, with options to extend for a further three and two years. On 1 November 2010 I awarded a contract extension to 31 August 2015.

Professor Harrington considered all aspects of the operation of the WCA, including the Atos assessment and concluded that, whilst the assessment is not working as well as it should and much could be done to make it fairer and more effective, the system is not broken or beyond repair.

Professor Harrington has recommended a series of practical improvements to the work capability assessment which we have accepted. A number of these relate to the work of Atos Healthcare—specifically that every Atos assessment contains a personalised summary of the assessment; that Atos provide mental, intellectual and cognitive champions in each medical assessment centre; that Atos pilot the audio recording of assessments; and that Atos develop and publish a charter of claimant rights and responsibilities and consider publishing their guidance online.

Before publishing its response and accepting these recommendations, the Department negotiated with Atos to ensure that these recommendations would be achievable. We will now work closely with Atos Healthcare in order to introduce them as fully and speedily as possible.

Working Tax Credit: Disability

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on families with disabled children of changes to eligibility rules for working tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [23309]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

From April 2012, the Government will change the eligibility rules for the working tax credit so that couples with children must work 24 hours a week between them, with one partner working at least 16 hours a week in order to qualify for the working tax credit. An equalities screening assessment was carried out for this measure, which considered the impact of this measure on those with disabilities. This change will not affect entitlement to the disabled and severely disabled child elements of the child tax credit.

The Government published an 'overview of the impact of Spending Review 2010 on equalities' alongside the spending review document. This document considers the overall impact of the spending review on groups protected by equalities legislation and it can be found at

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_equalities.pdf

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure long-term diversity in land-use in farming; and if she will make a statement. [26880]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The farming industry is best placed to determine how they use their land to make best use of local conditions and meeting market demands. Our recently published departmental business plan highlights our commitment to encouraging sustainable food production. DEFRA provides funding for agri-environment schemes and support to the Campaign for the Farmed Environment which helps farmers to manage their land to produce food sustainably alongside supporting their local natural environment.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many appeals have been submitted in respect of applications for consideration under the alternative method of the Single Payment Scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [27931]

Mr Paice: Under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) regulations member states were required to create a National Reserve (NR) to give qualifying farmers an opportunity to obtain an increase in the value of the historic element of their SPS payment entitlements.

Farmers could apply for an allocation from the NR under a number of categories, one of which was the Investor category. If a farmer considered that the standard method of calculating the allocation under the Investor category did not fully reflect the investment they had made they could request an alternative method of calculating the allocation (referred to as 'Alternative Investors').

Since April 2009 the Rural Payments Agency has received 22 Stage 1 appeals under the SPS Procedure against the decision not to make an allocation under the Alternative Investor category of the NR. Of these 20 farmers progressed to Stage 2 of the appeal procedure.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has evaluated on the treatment of performing animals in circuses in respect of *(a)* transport, *(b)* confinement, *(c)* training and *(d)* other conditions; and if she will make a statement. [27332]

Mr Paice: DEFRA officials are currently considering all the evidence available regarding the issue of wild animals in circuses.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish the full results of the consultation on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses; and what the reasons are for the time taken to complete work on the consultation. [27582]

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to announce her Department's policy on the use of wild animals in circuses before the end of 2010. [27736]

Mr Paice: We are currently considering the 13,000 or so responses before we publish a summary. In the meantime, Lord Henley has been meeting with representatives of welfare groups and the circus industry. An industry body has proposed a self-regulatory system, but no decisions have been made.

Animal Welfare: World Trade Organisation

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the importance of animal welfare considerations in World Trade Organisation negotiations. [27331]

Mr Paice: None. The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement only allows controls on food safety, plant and animal health grounds. While we are totally committed to improving animal welfare standards the situation is that unanimous agreement of the WTO's membership would be needed to change this to include production standards such as those relating to animal welfare. Such agreement is unlikely to be forthcoming because many of the WTO's members would regard such standards as likely to facilitate protectionism rather than trade.

Building Foam

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to establish specific and detailed guidance at *(a)* EU and *(b)* UK level on the treatment of building foam containing ozone depleting substances; and if she will make a statement. [27099]

Richard Benyon: The European Commission intends to let a tender for an EU-wide study which will include the development of recommended measures for reducing emissions of ozone-depleting substances from building foams. The contract is expected to be let shortly and the work should be completed within 14 months. This should provide the basis for an EU-wide approach to the treatment of these building foams.

Carbon Emissions

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals for a mandatory requirement for large companies to publish information on their carbon dioxide emissions. [27632]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Electric Shock Collars

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will bring forward proposals to ban the use of electric shock training devices on cats and dogs; [27748]

(2) what progress has been made on her Department's study of electric shock training aids. [27749]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 1 December 2010]*: There are no current plans to ban the use of electronic training aids for animals. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 already makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal and to treat an animal in a way that fails to meet its welfare needs. It also provides additional powers to prohibit the use of any such equipment through secondary legislation if considered necessary.

However, we recognise the need for further research into this issue. DEFRA is currently carrying out a study into whether electronic training collars cause unnecessary suffering, and this is expected to be completed next year.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by her Department; and what estimate she has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27496]

Mr Paice: A total of eight EU directives are currently pending transposition into domestic legislation. The following table gives details of estimated costs, where available. However, five of the directives listed are still at pre-consultation stage, so figures are not currently available.

EU directives pending transposition into domestic legislation by DEFRA

Directive	*Transposition deadline*	*Costs*
2007/43/EC Laying down the minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production	30 June 2010	Best estimate total (present value over eight years—£54.4 million). Best estimate net cost over eight years (£678 million).
Revised Waste Framework Directive 2008/098/EC On Waste and repealing certain directives	12 December 2010	Estimated total cost (present value over 10 years, low—£5.2 million; high—£7.5 million. Benefits have not yet been quantified, so net cost is unknown.
2009/145/EC Providing for certain derogations, for acceptance of vegetable landraces and varieties which have been traditionally been grown in particular localities and regions and are threatened by genetic erosion and of vegetable varieties with no intrinsic value for commercial crop production but developed for growing under particular conditions and for marketing of seed of those landraces and varieties	31 December 2010	Total costs (present value over 10 years) £0.3 million; best estimate net cost (present value over 10 years) £0.3 million.
European Energy Labelling Directive 2010/30/EC on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products	20 June 2011	Pre-consultation—figures not available
Water Framework Directive 2009/90/EC Laying down, pursuant to Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, technical specifications for chemical analysis and monitoring of water status	20 August 2011	Pre-consultation—figures not available
2010/60/EU Providing for certain derogations for marketing of fodder plant seed mixtures intended for use in the preservation of the natural environment	30 November 2011	Pre-consultation—figures not available
2009/126/EC On Stage II petrol vapour recovery during refuelling of motor vehicles at service stations	1 January 2012	Pre-consultation—figures not available
2010/79/EU On the adaptation to technical progress of Annex III to Directive 2004/42/EC on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds	10 June 2012	Pre-consultation—figures not available

Food: Waste

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce the amount of food waste produced by the food and drink supply chain. [27030]

Richard Benyon: The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme is working with the grocery industry on Phase Two of the Courtauld Commitment, a responsibility deal on waste prevention, which includes an ambitious target to reduce supply chain food (and packaging) waste.

The Government support complementary industry initiatives such as the Food and Drink Federation's 'Five-Fold Environmental Ambition', which aim to improve the environmental performance of the food manufacturing sector.

We are also considering how responsibility deals could help tackle waste in other business sectors.

Forestry Commission: Land

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of likely proceeds from the sale of *(a)* Forestry Commission land in England and *(b)* national nature reserves in each year of the spending review period. [26157]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 24 November 2010]:* Work on the future management and/or ownership of national nature reserves is at a very early stage so it is not possible to give any indications about any likely sale values.

The Forestry Commission estimates selling 15% of the public forest estate over the spending review period, approximately 40,000 hectares. The estimate of net receipts from sales, year on year, is £13 million/£18 million/£20.5 million/£23 million.

Forests: Sustainable Development

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on compliance of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector organisations with the provisions of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation in respect of sustainable forest management. [27781]

Mr Paice: The main provisions for sustainable forest management internationally are contained in the Rio Forest Principles and the subsequent work of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel and Forum on Forests, which the Food and Agricultural Organisation facilitates the implementation of through a number of its activities on forests.

These global commitments on forests have been articulated for European forests through resolutions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe, including the development of pan-European criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. The UK has used this pan-European framework to inform its approach to sustainable forest management, which is contained in the UK Forestry Standard that both public and private forest owners and managers are expected to comply with.

Landfill

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent estimate she has made of the annual administrative cost to local authorities of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme; [26159]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme in reducing landfill volumes; [26160]

(3) what plans she has for the future of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. [26161]

Richard Benyon: On 18 March 2010, DEFRA launched a consultation seeking views on the most effective combination of policies to ensure that England reduces the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill and meets its EU landfill diversion targets. As part of the consultation, DEFRA asked for views on the future of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

The vast majority of respondents considered that the scheme had been an important driver in diverting waste from landfill. The Government announced on 8 September that the UK will meet the 2010 landfill directive target, and the scheme has played an important role in delivering that outcome. However, the majority of respondents thought that the landfill tax was now a greater driver. There was a range of views about the future of LATS, with a number of respondents considering that LATS should be abandoned immediately, others wanting this to happen after the 2013 target year and others wanting LATS to be retained till 2020.

DEFRA is assessing policy options in the context of the Government's current wider review of waste policies, taking these views into account. We do not have a recent assessment of the administrative cost to local authorities of the LATS. However, a primary goal of the policy assessment is to achieve a set of policies delivering the required reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill without placing unnecessary burdens on those involved, including local authorities.

Livestock

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to review regulations governing the movement of livestock. [27304]

Mr Paice: The Task Force on Food and Farming headed by Richard Macdonald has identified the livestock movements regime (including the standstill rules) as one of the areas they will review. I look forward to their recommendations.

New Forest National Park Authority

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the New Forest National Park Authority spent on circulating the recent report on its activities to every household in the National Park. [27355]

Richard Benyon: The decision to issue the authority's 'Park Life' biannual newsletter is a matter for that authority. I understand that each edition costs £12,000 to produce and distribute—which is about 13p per copy.

Ozone Depleting Substances

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* existing public buildings and *(b)* public buildings under construction which utilise ozone depleting substances in their construction materials. [27118]

Richard Benyon: In 2009, DEFRA commissioned research into the quantity of ozone-depleting substances present in the UK building stock. This research, which should be published in due course, estimated the total quantity of ozone-depleting substances still present in the UK building stock, but has not explicitly identified the proportion still present in public buildings.

The use of ozone-depleting substances in building insulation foams has been banned in the EU since 2004, so these materials are no longer used in the construction of any buildings in the UK.

Poultry: Eggs

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the introduction of a No 4 production code for enriched eggs to differentiate them from eggs produced using conventional cages after 1 January 2012; and what recent discussions she has had at EU level on the introduction of a ban on eggs and egg products produced from hens housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2010. [27611]

Mr Paice: I have received many letters on this subject from MPs and individual farmers recently. The UK Government remain entirely committed to the conventional cage ban coming into force on 1 January 2012 and to supporting industry throughout the transition. DEFRA officials are continuing to work with the European Commission and industry to ensure that everything is done to protect UK producers who have already made significant investment to comply with the legislation.

The UK has suggested the introduction of a Code '4' for eggs produced by hens housed in enriched systems with the Commission, to ensure they can be distinguished from those housed in conventional cages after the ban is introduced. However, the Commission has made it clear that it views the introduction of an additional Code as confusing to consumers. It is not an option it is willing to consider.

We have therefore, along with some member states, asked the Commission to provide sufficient enforcement controls across the European Union. This will help protect compliant producers and ensure that they are not disadvantaged if there is any delay to the ban, or any member states fail to meet the 2012 deadline. One way of achieving this might be an intra-community ban on the trade in eggs produced by hens still housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012. In practice this would mean that such eggs may only be sold in the member state of production for a limited period only.

Tigers

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking together with *(a)* other Governments and *(b)* international agencies to reduce the illegal trade in tigers. [27425]

Richard Benyon: International trade in tiger parts is a significant threat to the species and as a party to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES), the UK is supportive of its increasing focus on enforcement, its work with range and consumer countries as well as enforcement agencies such as Interpol. The UK has been involved in the development of the Global Tiger Initiative, a World Bank programme which aims to address threats to the species so that numbers in the wild will double by 2022, as well as the intergovernmental Global Tiger Forum.

The Government take seriously the threat to wildlife from smuggling and trafficking wildlife. The UK is currently chair of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), a coalition of six Governments and 13 non-government organisations, committed to raising the profile of illegal trade to focus public and political attention and resources on ending the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other assistance her Department plans to provide to the Global Tiger Recovery Programme adopted by the International Tiger Forum at St Petersburg, Russia. [27813]

Richard Benyon: We will assess how the UK can best participate in efforts to protect tigers in the wild in light of the recent global tiger summit held in St Petersburg, once details of its conclusions and the governance regime are known in detail. No decisions regarding funding or other assistance have yet been made.

Tigers: St Petersburg

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what matters the Government raised at the global tiger summit held in St Petersburg, Russia. [27478]

Richard Benyon: While supportive of the initiative which led to the global tiger summit, UK Ministers were unable to attend.

Nevertheless, the UK has consistently supported efforts to protect tigers in the wild, particularly through membership of the global tiger forum, and actively participated with the World Bank, non-government organisations and tiger range states in the global tiger initiative programme. We will now assess how the UK can best participate in the post-summit strategy.

Trees

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much sweet chestnut is under management for coppicing in each *(a)* county and *(b)* local authority area. [27553]

Mr Paice: The best available information on woodland type, tree species and area in England is from data collected by the Forestry Commission for the National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees published in 2001. The estimated area of sweet chestnut coppice assessed as being in active management at the time of the survey is given in the following table. No sweet chestnut coppice was recorded in the counties not included in this list.

County	*Area (hectares)*
Hereford/Worcs	434
Essex	278
Berkshire	45
Greater London	11
Kent	4,581
Surrey	128
East Sussex	1,561
West Sussex	752
Hampshire	39
Devon	131

Tuna: Conservation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on a settlement by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas which would not guarantee the recovery of bluefin tuna stocks by 2022. [27206]

Richard Benyon: I made it clear to the Fisheries Council on 25 October 2010 that the protection of bluefin tuna had to be a top priority for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and that if further cuts were necessary to the total allowable catch (TAC) in order to achieve this, then they should be made. While we would have preferred to have seen a more significant reduction in the TAC to increase probability of recovery by 2022, the decision by ICCAT to reduce it by a further 600 tonnes is within the parameters of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what submissions her Department made to the EU Council on its negotiating position for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas discussions on a potential ban on the commercial fishing of bluefin tuna. [27207]

Richard Benyon: During such discussions, the UK advised the Council that it favoured providing a mandate that would have obliged the Commission to seek a significant reduction in the level of total allowable catch (TAC). This did not prove to be possible, as member states with fishing possibilities opposed this, and pressed for a mandate that would have sought retention of the TAC at last year's levels.

Following extensive negotiations, a presidency compromise was adopted, which sought to achieve a level of TAC that would provide between 60 and 77% probability of achieving maximum sustainable yields by 2022. The UK abstained, because opposing would have meant that the EU had no mandate to negotiate on bluefin tuna, and this could have resulted in contracting parties seeking an increase to the TAC, which would have made the situation worse.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness on stock conservation of the proposals advanced by *(a)* the Netherlands, *(b)* Sweden and *(c)* Greece prior to the EU Council meeting which determined the EU mandate for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas negotiations. [27208]

Richard Benyon: The UK considered a range of proposals, advanced by different parties in the lead up to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas negotiations, in order to arrive at a settled EU position that would enable the continued recovery of the bluefin tuna stock.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* her international counterparts and *(b)* multinational agencies on banning the commercial fishing of bluefin tuna. [27209]

Richard Benyon: I discussed the issue of bluefin tuna with the head of the American Oceanographic Agency, and made it very clear that we considered that the conservation of bluefin tuna was a top priority, and that steps needed to be taken at International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to reduce the quota if the Scientific Committee judged that it was necessary to do so.

Wide-ranging discussions were also held with a range of member states at ministerial and senior official levels, including France.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on a ban on the commercial fishing of bluefin tuna. [27210]

Richard Benyon: At the 2009 annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), it was agreed that if the Scientific Committee judged that there was an imminent risk of stock collapse, the bluefin tuna fishery should be closed immediately. The 2010 stock assessment did not indicate that such a risk was likely, and we would not therefore support a ban on the commercial fishing of bluefin tuna at this time.

Water Abstraction

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 streams and rivers in England have been assessed as being most at risk from water abstraction; and if she will make a statement. [26239]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency assesses which rivers and streams are under pressure from abstraction by developing catchment abstraction management strategies (CAMS). These documents indicate that rivers in the south-east are under pressure from abstraction.

The Environment Agency does not have a ranked list of rivers at risk. It uses CAMS and river basin management plans to identify which environmental problems to address by looking at the degree to which abstraction could be affecting surface and ground waters, and evidence of environmental damage. Licences identified as potentially impacting the environment undergo further analysis in the Environment Agency's Restoring Sustainable Abstraction Programme.

The Government have directed the Environment Agency to prioritise these sites in order of legal and policy requirements as follows:

those sites protected by the EU Habitats and Wild Birds Directive (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England only);

Biodiversity Action Plan sites (Rio convention on biodiversity); and

sites of local importance.

The Environment Agency also uses information from CAMS to decide if new abstraction licences can be granted and to develop river basin management plans under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Environment Agency is also investigating water bodies that are failing to meet the environmental objectives set by the WFD.

Weedkillers

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the use of aminopyralid and clopyralid in herbicides; what assessment her Department has made of the effects of such compounds on the environment; and if she will make a statement. [26241]

Mr Paice: The policy on the use of all pesticide products is that they are authorised only if they can be used without unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. Aminopyralid and clopyralid products are used for the control of weeds in crops, turf and pasture land.

The persistence of aminopyralid and clopyralid herbicides in manure from livestock which feed on pasture land treated with these is considered as part of the risk assessment in the authorisation process. Conditions are imposed on the way the products can be used to minimise manure containing residues of these pesticides being used to cultivate susceptible crops.

Following incidents of crop damage attributed to manure containing residues of aminopyralid in spring 2008, authorisations for this herbicide were suspended. Some users had not complied with conditions of use designed to prevent the use of manure containing aminopyralid.

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides considered this issue at a number of meetings in 2008 and 2009. At its September 2009 meeting it recommended that authorisations be granted to new aminopyralid products. This was subject to additional conditions on the way products could be used and the authorisation holder continuing with a stewardship campaign to highlight the risk of treating susceptible crops.

There are still reports of damage to crops but these have reduced in number this year and relate to aminopyralid use before the new conditions were imposed. Reports of damage to crops from the use of clopyralid occur infrequently. A recent review identified the need to further improve the labelling of some products and this is being done.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the effects on the political situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain of the Government's assistance to it in respect of security intelligence. [27809]

Alistair Burt: It is the long-standing policy of successive UK Governments not to comment on security and intelligence matters.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the *(a)* contribution of cultural links to UK relations with Bahrain and *(b)* merits of taking steps to strengthen such links with Bahrain. [27810]

Alistair Burt: We are committed to elevating our engagement with Bahrain across the board, as well as with other Gulf states. This includes work on cultural and educational links. There is great potential for more and larger collaborations on cultural projects in the region and the UK. We welcome the prospect of future partnerships in cultural schemes and we support the deepening of cultural and historical ties.

Colombia: Homicide

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department received on the numbers of journalists killed in Colombia in 2009. [27323]

Mr Jeremy Browne: According to official Government figures and the Colombian Foundation for Freedom of the Press (FLIP), one journalist was killed in Colombia in 2009.

We are concerned about the safety of human rights defenders in Colombia, including journalists. We regularly raise our concerns with the Colombian Government, including at a recent meeting between our ambassador and the head of the Vice President's Unit for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Colombia: Prisoners

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Colombian authorities in relation to the detention in Charco of Henry Castillo Perlaza. [27222]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We cannot intervene in Colombia's judicial processes but we do raise specific cases with the Colombian authorities where there is a concern for individuals who have been detained for long periods without trial. We are following Mr Castillo's case closely.

We regularly underline to the Colombian authorities that those charged with crimes should have their legal rights fully respected, including the right to a fair trial. The issue of swift and effective justice was raised last at the EU-Colombia Human Rights Dialogue on 23 November 2010, which was attended by our ambassador in Bogota.

Colombia: Terrorism

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 914W, on Colombia: terrorism, what assessment he has made of the credibility of the allegations made by members of the San Jose de Apartado community of collaboration between the Colombian army and paramilitary groups. [27310]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not made an official assessment of the credibility of the allegations made by members of the San Jose de Apartado community. We will continue to monitor the Colombian Government's response to these allegations and to maintain contact with the San Jose de Apartado community.

Guatemala: Human Rights

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the Guatemalan Government the steps it is taking to ensure full and effective implementation of the *(a)* article guaranteeing free, prior, and informed consent to communities affected by large scale extractive projects and *(b)* other articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. [27337]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Human rights were a focus of my visit to Guatemala on 26 November, and featured in my meetings with the Foreign Minister and Vice Foreign Minister. I also discussed current issues and human rights with a group of diverse and young Guatemalan future leaders, including leaders of indigenous groups.

The protection and the strengthening of human rights is central to the work of our embassy in Guatemala City. On 24 November the ambassador spoke at a seminar on Guatemala's construction industry about the need for responsible development in Guatemala and open dialogue with civil society to ensure human rights are protected. These arguments are gaining support, for example through the new law to allow public-private large infrastructure projects. It includes regulations and dispute resolution mechanisms that engender the confidence of both international investors and local populations.

Taiwan: Working Holidays

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the possibility of a Working Holiday Agreement with Taiwan; and if he will make a statement. [27398]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of Taiwan's desire to establish a working holiday agreement, but no substantive discussions have to date taken place. The UK operates a single generic Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) to enhance cultural exchanges between young people. All participants of the YMS need to meet certain eligibility criteria, including demonstrating a low level of immigration risk, a satisfactory returns arrangement with the UK and reciprocal opportunities for UK nationals.

Following an objective worldwide review, the UK lifted its visa requirement for short term visits by Taiwanese passport holders in March 2009. We enjoy a strong relationship with Taiwan in the areas of education and cultural exchange, with around 15,000 Taiwanese students in the UK at any one time.

Western Sahara

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Islington North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 9 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 141, on the Western Sahara, what steps were taken in response to his request for monitoring by his Department's officials based in Morocco. [27734]

Alistair Burt: The Government support the idea of independent verification of the human rights situation in Western Sahara. Discussions regarding human rights monitoring in Western Sahara need to explore all options and identify which organisation is best placed to deliver that function.

Our embassy in Rabat works closely with local and international human rights non-governmental organisations on a range of human rights issues and raises specific human rights cases with the Moroccan authorities when appropriate. Work to monitor human rights in Morocco includes working in partnership with other EU missions in Rabat as part of our wider engagement with Morocco.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with UK representatives in Morocco on the current situation in El Aauin, Western Sahara. [27738]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with UK representatives in Morocco on the current situation in Western Sahara.

I have travelled to Rabat where I have discussed this issue with UK embassy officials and with a variety of Moroccan interlocutors.

We are concerned by the recent reports of violence in Western Sahara and continue to support the UN-led efforts to resolve the dispute seeking to encourage the parties to enter into a dialogue, without preconditions, to reach a mutually acceptable political solution.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the comments of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Algerian television on 11 November 2010, what steps have been taken by UK representatives to monitor the violence in El Aauin, Western Sahara. [27739]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador and officials at the British embassy in Rabat have been monitoring the situation in Western Sahara closely since the reports of violence on 8 November. They are in contact with the Moroccan authorities in Rabat as well as a range of other interlocutors.

Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also held meetings with officials from the Moroccan embassy in London to discuss the issue.

As President of the UN Security Council we convened an informal meeting on 16 November where the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr Atul Khare, briefed the Council on the recent incidents in Western Sahara.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Employment Trends

8. **Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent assessment she has made of trends in the employment of women; and if she will make a statement. [27907]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

Equality in our work force is a key priority for this Government. I am pleased to tell the House that employment for both men and women is increasing and we expect this trend to continue as the economy recovers.

Homosexual and Bisexual Blood Donors

9. **Simon Wright:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent representations she has received on the rules relating to homosexual and bisexual blood donors. [27908]

Lynne Featherstone: I have received a number of representations on this issue.

The independent Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs is currently conducting a comprehensive review of policy and has also received representations from a wide range of groups and individuals on this issue. They will announce the conclusions of their review in early 2011.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what overseas visits are planned for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Government Equalities Office in the next 24 months. [27474]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) engages with EU and international institutions as well as priority countries to protect and promote UK interests internationally. As part of this work, Ministers and officials are sometimes required to travel to represent the UK at EU and international meetings and conferences.

As of 26 November 2010, the GEO is planning the following overseas visits for officials in the next 24 months:

The Council of Europe meeting on Equality between Women and Men in Strasburg on 8-10 December 2010.

The EU Commission High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming meeting in Budapest on 11-12 January 2011.

The 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York on 22 February to 4 March 2011.

The EU Commission Non-Discrimination Governmental Expert Group meeting in Brussels on 12 April 2011.

In addition, the UK will be sitting on the management board of the European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius, Lithuania, for the next three years therefore the GEO anticipates that officials will attend relevant meetings as required.

The GEO anticipates a number of further ministerial and official visits to EU and international fora in the next 24 months, to be confirmed in the light of ministerial and international priorities.

Flexible Working

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what consultation her Department has undertaken with *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employers on her plans to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees. [27909]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities and I have had several informal discussions with a number of public and private sector organisations.

as well as other key stakeholders, about flexible working. We will continue to work closely with colleagues at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills who have responsibility for this matter and who will begin formally consulting on the extension to the right to request flexible working to all employees in the new year.

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the compliance of the Government Equalities Office with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27852]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) does not source any timber. Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the GEO has been a tenant of the Department for Communities and Local Government and any sourcing of timber and compliance with the UN criteria is for DCLG to manage.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal migrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers have been released following arrest owing to a lack of capacity on the immigration detention estate in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [27763]

Damian Green *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* The UK Border Agency does not record this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* illegal migrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers on temporary release from detention were found after absconding in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [27764]

(2) how many *(a)* illegal migrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers on temporary release from detention absconded in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [27765]

Damian Green *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* The UK Border Agency does not record this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records or through extensive report development.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the average daily cost to the public purse of keeping a detainee in Yarl's Wood. [27803]

Damian Green: The current average cost of detaining an individual at an immigration removal centre is £110 per night. This includes the operating contract costs, but also the cost for detention services, the part of the UK Border Agency responsible for overseeing the detention estate, to provide direct services to detainees.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Mental Health

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees in each detention centre on the latest date for which figures are available had been diagnosed with a mental health condition. [27804]

Damian Green: Consultations and medical records are confidential between patient and doctor. The only exception to this is where a medical practitioner believes a detainee's health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued detention. In such circumstances, he or she is required to inform the UK Border Agency. The Agency is not otherwise informed of, and is therefore unable to provide data on the number of detainees who are diagnosed with a mental health condition.

All immigration removal centres provide free onsite primary health care to the same level of care as NHS general practices in the community. This involves access to nursing care, including mental health, 24 hours per day, and visiting GPs who are on call outside of normal hours. The GP refers detainees to the local primary care trusts where secondary treatment or specialist health assessments are required.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council: Finance

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the likely effects of the reduction in the budget for the Arts Council on the delivery of legacy projects associated with the 2008 European Capital of Culture in Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [28245]

Mr Vaizey: The Arts Council have agreed to limit cuts to their overall budget for arts organisations to just 15%. At the same time, the Department has reformed how lottery money is allocated in order to boost the arts share by £50 million each year from 2012. Taken together, this means that the overall funding for the Arts Council will fall by just 11% over the next four years.

We are confident that by prioritising investment in the front line, and with the Arts Council working closely in partnership with other funders and the arts sector, key legacy projects building on the 2008 European Capital of Culture in Liverpool will continue to thrive.

Arts: Birmingham City Council

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of local authority funding reductions on arts organisations based in the Birmingham city council area. [27936]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area.

The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Arts: Durham County Council

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of local authority funding reductions on arts organisations in Durham county council area. [27913]

Mr Vaizey: It is central Government's role to empower local communities and local authorities to make the decisions that they feel are most appropriate for their area.

The Department will continue to fund the arts through Arts Council England, who provide support to a number of regularly funded organisations across the country.

Film

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the British Film Institute on its responsibilities for development and promotion of UK films in respect of UK-written and produced films in *(a)* indigenous and *(b)* non-indigenous UK languages. [28083]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not currently have a direct funding relationship with the British Film Institute (BFI). This is a matter for the UK Film Council to address.

In my capacity as Minister with responsibility for culture and the creative industries, I made an announcement on Monday 29 November about the Department's new relationship with the BFI, which will take effect from April 2011. The details of this proposal, designed to create a more sustainable future for the British film industry, have been published on our website and can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/news_stories/7603.aspx

Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* Historic Scotland and *(c)* the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland on his proposal to end the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme; and what plans he has for the future value added tax liabilities of repairs to listed places of worship. [27152]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, and has announced that the scheme will continue until 2014-15, with a fixed annual budget of £12 million and an amended scope. Officials have discussed decisions with Historic Scotland and have recently responded to correspondence from the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.

European Union (EU) VAT legislation agreed by successive Governments does not provide any scope for the introduction of new zero rates or the extension of existing ones. Furthermore, given that the last discussions on reduced rates of VAT concluded after six years of negotiation, there is no appetite at EU level for these to be reviewed again. There is thus no realistic prospect of any change to the current VAT arrangements for the foreseeable future.

JUSTICE

Prisoners: Terrorism

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 513W, on prisoners: terrorism, for what reason each of the six offenders convicted of terrorist offences who were re-released in 2010 following an earlier recall were taken back into custody. [28080]

Mr Blunt: The six offenders in question were each recalled for breaches of their licence conditions. They have not been charged with further offences.

Wood

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27849]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice's timber procurement is following the specifications set out in the UK Government's Timber Procurement Policy and requires that all timber and wood-derived products procured must be from only independently verifiable legal and sustainable sources or action plan for forest law enforcement, governance and trade licensed timber or equivalent sources. The Government's definition of sustainability is based on internationally agreed criteria for sustainable forest management, which are also referred to by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The timber purchased by the Ministry of Justice is used by the prison industry workshops for the manufacture of office furniture and associated joinery products. All woodwork workshops undertake goods inward inspections to ensure all timber received is as per the above guidance.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assumptions in respect of the rates of air passenger duty were used in calculations to obtain the forecasts for air passenger duty receipts contained in table C11 in the Budget 2010 report; [27163]

(2) what estimates of air passenger numbers were used in calculations to obtain the forecasts for air passenger duty receipts contained in table C11 in the Budget 2010 report; [27164]

(3) what methodology was used to calculate the forecasts for air passenger duty receipts contained in table C11 in the Budget 2010 report. [27165]

Justine Greening: The air passenger duty forecast uses announced duty rates where available and beyond that the assumption is that duty rates will be increased in line with the retail prices index at each Budget. This is set out on page 51 of the June Budget policy costings document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_costings.htm

Passenger numbers by band are forecast using econometric models of the demand for air travel, based on the relationship of passenger numbers with macro economic variables including gross domestic product and disposable income. The latest Office for Budget Responsibility forecast of these variables is used to produce the forecast. Outturn passenger numbers by band, as well as outturn receipts data are published by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs:

https://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullair

The receipts forecast is the product of projected passenger numbers multiplied by assumed duty rates. Some small adjustments are made to reflect unusual factors, such as the volcanic ash cloud and industrial action, as well as the latest receipts outturn.

Banks: Pay

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings each Minister in his Department has had with *(a)* representatives of banks and financial services companies which will be affected by the implementation of a remuneration disclosure scheme and *(b)* others to discuss such a scheme; when each such meeting was held; and who attended each such meeting. [26328]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Budget June 2010: Equality

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what legal advice his Department obtained on the compliance of the proposals in his Budget Statement of 22 June 2010 with the statutory equality duties; and if he will make a statement; [14057]

(2) what assessment his Department made of the compatibility of the proposals in his Budget Statement of 22 June 2010 with the Government's statutory equality duties; and if he will make a statement; [14058]

(3) what written communications he received from other Ministers on the compliance of the proposals in his Budget Statement of 22 June 2010 with the Government's statutory equality duties. [14059]

Justine Greening: The Treasury takes its statutory equality duties very seriously. The Department seeks legal advice where necessary, although this is not obligatory.

The Treasury has assessed the compliance of each of the 101 measures announced in the June Budget with our equality duties in respect to gender. In some cases, an impact assessment was not necessary or appropriate; in others an impact assessment had already been carried out or would be carried out after the Budget announcement at the appropriate time; and in other cases the measure has already been implemented in primary legislation. Two gender impact assessments (on the public sector pay freeze and indexation of benefits by the consumer prices index) that were originally not included have now been completed and the policies reconsidered in light of these impacts. These policies will go forward as planned.

I work closely with my colleagues, especially the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities, to ensure that HM Treasury complies with its statutory obligations.

Charities: Regulation

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to bring forward proposals for regulations to provide for charitable incorporated organisations. [27388]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the right hon. Member for Oxford East (Mr Smith) on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 139W.

Cheques

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with UK Payments Administration Ltd. on the time taken for cheques drawn on *(a)* the same bank and *(b)* a different bank to clear following payment into a bank account. [28058]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Debt Collection: Data Protection

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that private sector debt collection agencies comply with *(a)* data protection legislation and *(b)* principles of confidentiality in handling taxpayers' personal information under his proposals for collection of tax arrears. [27143]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs requires debt collection agencies (DCAs) working on its behalf to comply with strict codes of conduct and the contracts require that they maintain HMRC standards in relation to customer service, data security and professionalism. A robust audit and assurance process has been put in place which builds on the experience gained during the 2009-10 pilot.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13033]

Justine Greening: Total spending by Treasury staff on reimbursable expenses and the largest 10 payments in each year since 2003-04 are shown in the following table. Information on claims prior to 2003-04 is no longer available.

£

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Annual total	375,401	293,284	341,842	357,084	346,914	[1]630,129	697,662
10 largest claims (ascending)	2,515	1,308	1,692	2,527	2,197	1,724	3,088
	2,654	1,447	1,800	2,589	2,400	1,797	3,387
	3,054	1,777	1,986	3,483	2,562	2,014	3,445
	3,188	1,880	2,000	3,611	2,566	2,526	3,461
	3,654	1,880	2,690	4,040	2,571	2,792	3,717
	4,500	1,950	3,085	4,076	3,369	2,888	3,827
	5,000	2,897	3,503	4,518	3,500	3,006	4,023
	5,931	3,024	6,010	4,775	4,171	3,285	4,567
	7,170	3,037	6,304	5,547	4,438	3,465	5,061
	19,887	4,414	7,846	6,231	5,380	5,729	10,428

[1] The large increase in reimbursable expenses in 2008-09 was due to the introduction of a new corporate card system for the payment of expenses. The system requires staff to pay for their own travel and subsistence in the first instance and then claim reimbursement of their spending through the Department's expenses system. Prior to 2008-09, most travel and subsistence was paid directly by the Department.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much expenditure each Minister in his Department incurred in respect of entertainment in May 2010. [8180]

Justine Greening: No expenditure was incurred by HM Treasury in respect of official entertainment by Ministers in May 2010.

EU Grants and Loans: Republic of Ireland

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what legal advice he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received on the compliance of the actions of each relevant EU institution (i) preparatory to and (ii) during the negotiation of a programme of financial support for the Republic of Ireland with the procedure prescribed in article 3 of the Council Regulation establishing the European Financial Stability Mechanism; [25892]

(2) what assessment he has made of the compliance of the actions of each relevant EU institution in respect of negotiations *(a)* preparatory to and *(b)* in respect of a programme of financial support for the Republic of Ireland with the procedure prescribed in article 3 of the Council Regulation establishing the European Financial Stability Mechanism. [25894]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 23 November 2010]:* The terms of operation of the European Financial Stability Mechanism are set out in EU Council Regulation No. 407/2010. In accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article 3 of this Regulation, and following a request from Ireland for Union financial assistance on 21 November, discussions with the European Commission and European Central Bank (ECB) are under way.

The Government have full confidence that all relevant EU institutions strictly adhere to and comply with the terms set out in Article 3 of the Council Regulation.

Marginal Deductions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which measures announced in the *(a)* June 2010 Budget and *(b)* comprehensive spending review he expects to increase marginal deduction rates for households. [26641]

Justine Greening: When estimating changes to marginal deduction rates, it is reform to the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important to households, rather than certain subsets of the system. Annex A of the June Budget sets out estimates of the numbers of families subject to varying marginal deduction rates in 2010-11, and in 2011-12 following the implementation of planned measures included in the March Budget (e.g. the increase in national insurance rates of 1%), and the June 2010 Budget (e.g. the increase of 2% in the taper rate of tax credits).

At spending review, the Government announced the new universal credit, introduced over two Parliaments, which will replace the current complex system of means-tested working-age benefits with a simple streamlined payment. The universal credit will improve financial work incentives by ensuring that support is reduced at a consistent and managed marginal deduction rate (generally at no more than around 76 pence in the pound as compared with 96 pence currently) as people return to work and increase their working hours and earnings.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letter of 1 October 2010 from the hon. Member for Torbay on low value consignment relief. [27606]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mortgages

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what research he has evaluated on the likely effects on access to mortgages of the Financial Services Authority's mortgage market proposals; [27602]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the Financial Services Authority's mortgage market proposals on the operation of the housing market; [27603]

(3) what assessment he has made of the evidential basis for the Financial Services Authority's assessment of the effects on house prices of implementation of the authority's mortgage market proposals. [27604]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to a healthy housing and mortgage market.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is conducting a wholesale review of mortgage regulation in the UK, the 'Mortgage Market Review'.

The Government believe that it is right for the FSA to ensure that the UK mortgage market has responsible lending practices. We will continue to work with the FSA, mortgage lenders and intermediaries, and consumer groups to ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants.

The FSA published 'Mortgage Market Review: Responsible Lending' in July. This paper forms one part of an ongoing consultation process.

The FSA has stated that it will fully assess the potential impact on the market before implementing any rule changes.

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the comparative effects on potential new house-buyers of *(a)* the Financial Services Authority's responsible mortgage-lending proposals and *(b)* the lending proposals of the European Commission. [27605]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to a healthy housing and mortgage market. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is conducting a wholesale review of mortgage regulation in the UK, the 'Mortgage Market Review'.

The Government believe that it is right for the FSA to ensure that the UK mortgage market has responsible lending practices. We will continue to work with the FSA, mortgage lenders and intermediaries, and consumer groups to ensure a mortgage market that is sustainable for all participants.

The FSA published 'Mortgage Market Review: Responsible Lending' in July. This forms one part of an ongoing consultation process.

The FSA has stated that it will fully assess the potential impact on the market before implementing any rule changes.

The European Commission has not yet announced any proposals on responsible lending. Should any proposals be put forward, the Secretariat-General requires that all Commission initiatives with significant impacts be supported by an impact assessment.

National Insurance Contributions: Portsmouth

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue forgone through *(a)* implementing and *(b)* administering an employers' national insurance contribution holiday scheme in the Portsmouth city council area in the period to which the provisions of the holiday scheme under the National Insurance Contributions Bill will apply. [26315]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 25 November 2010]*: The Government have no plans to introduce national insurance contribution exemptions based on city council areas. The regional national insurance holiday for new businesses is targeted at those regional labour markets most reliant on public sector employment. Labour markets generally extended much wider than city council area boundaries. For this reason, and for reasons of administrative practicality, eligibility for the holiday is defined by region. The Government have made no estimate of the impacts of such options.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions he used in respect of levels of long-term unemployment when making his forecast for social security spending in each year to 2015. [24777]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Work and Pensions uses the claimant count unemployment forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility to forecast social security spending.

The Office for Budget Responsibility published an updated claimant count forecast on 29 November.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate of the average monetary cost to the Exchequer of each additional person claiming jobseeker's allowance he used in making his forecast for social security spending in each year to 2015. [24778]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The information is in the table.

Average annual cost per jobseeker's allowance claimant

	£
2010-11	5,400
2011-12	5,400
2012-13	5,500
2013-14	5,500
2014-15	5,700

Notes:
1. Figures are consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook published on 29 November 2010.
2. Figures include jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £100.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what changes were made between the forecasts of expenditure on each benefit type made in *(a)* the Office for Budget Responsibility pre-budget forecast and *(b)* the June 2010 Budget; and which such changes were attributable to (i) decisions on policy and (ii) changes to economic forecasts; [26088]

(2) whether any revisions were made to the economic forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility between the pre-Budget forecast and the Budget forecast due to changes in marginal deduction rates in the proposals of the June 2010 Budget. [26258]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibilities of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Students: Loans

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what controls he exercises over arrangements made by the Student Loans Company to securitise its loans. [27551]

Mr Gauke: The Shareholder Executive in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has lead responsibility for exploring options to monetise the Student Loan Portfolio including looking at securitisation options. This work is ongoing and the Government intend to reach a decision on whether and how to monetise the portfolio by Budget 2011. The Student Loans Company is owned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Scottish Executive.

Tax Yields

Mr David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many settlements under controlled foreign companies legislation have yielded *(a)* under £1 million, *(b)* between £1 million and £10 million, *(c)* between £10 million and £100 million, *(d)* between £100 million and £1 billion and *(e)* above £1 billion in each of the last three financial years; and what the total yield was from all such settlements; [25723]

(2) how much tax was at risk in cases under controlled foreign companies legislation in each of the last three years; and in how many cases the tax at risk was *(a)* under £1 million, *(b)* between £1 million and £10 million, *(c)* between £10 million and £100 million, *(d)* between £100 million and £1 billion and *(e)* above £1 billion; [25724]

(3) how many cases have been settled under controlled foreign companies (CFC) legislation so as to produce lower yields to HM Revenue and Customs than would have been the case if such legislation had been applied in full in each of the last three financial years; how many of these settlements were *(a)* under £1 million, *(b)* between £1 million and £10 million, *(c)* between £10 million and £100 million, *(d)* between £100 million and £1 billion and *(e)* above £1 billion; and what the total difference is between the level of the settlements and the maximum which would have been due if the CFC legislation had been fully applied. [25725]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 22 November 2010]:* It is difficult to give a precise answer to this question as the CFC inquiry is often part of a wider investigation and a settlement of a CFC dispute may have been included in an overall settlement figure. There is also a danger that providing the information in the format requested could lead to the identification of specific taxpayers. Our best estimates of the total yield and the number of settlements falling within the following bands are:

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Number settlements yield < £1 million	79	64	67
Number settlements yield > £1 million and < £10 million	6	5	16
Number settlements yield > £10 million	4	3	6

The total recorded yield from all the identified CFC settlements in the last three financial years (2007-08 to 2009-10), is £719,446,086.

The amount of tax at risk in respect of any UK company with a holding in a CFC depends on the facts and until an inquiry is completed cannot be more than an estimate. As the facts are established during the course of an inquiry, the tax at risk in any case fluctuates as the inquiry proceeds. Consequently it is not possible to provide an answer to this question.

In every case where a CFC inquiry has been settled in each of the last three financial years, the CFC rules have been applied in full to establish the extent of any liability, or in some cases that there is no liability.

Taxation

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the contribution to the UK tax base of each sector of the economy. [26691]

Mr Gauke: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs produces a breakdown by broad industrial sector for corporation tax, pay-as-you-earn income tax and class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs) and value added tax (VAT).

Historical figures for corporation tax receipts paid by several broadly-defined business sectors are regularly updated and published in Table 11.1, on the HMRC National Statistics website. Receipts information is currently available up to 2009-10. The sectors are defined by HMRC's Summary Trade Classifications. The latest update is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs received by HMRC in respect of employee and employer liabilities in 2009-10 are split by sector as follows:

2009-10

Sector	*£ billion*
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	0.9
Mining and Quarrying	1.0
Manufacturing	23.5
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1.5
Construction	11.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade	21.3
Hotels and Restaurants	3.7
Transport, Storage and Communication	12.3
Financial Intermediation	23.2
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	43.3
Public Administration and Defence	12.5
Education	20.7
Health and Social Work	19.5
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	7.3
Occupational Pensions	10.1
Other	-0.3
Total	212.4

The sectors are defined by the Office for National Statistics' Standard Industrial Classification 2003. The occupational pensions figure in the table above includes all income tax on occupational pensions regardless of the sector in which the person was previously employed.

Declared VAT is published by trade group in the VAT factsheet, table 2.3:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

Given that sectors for corporation tax and VAT and PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs are defined differently these sets of figures are not directly comparable.

Taxation: Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals his Department has for the *(a)* taxation of and *(b)* establishment of a floor price for carbon. [27426]

Justine Greening: The Budget announced that the Government would publish proposals to establish greater support and certainty to the carbon price by reforming the climate change levy.

A consultation will be published shortly. Subject to consultation, the Government intend to bring forward legislation in Finance Bill 2011.

Taxation: Private Rented Housing

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private sector landlords required to pay tax arrears by HM Revenue and Customs in the latest period for which figures are available are resident *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [26185]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold this information; I would however refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 682W.

VAT

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average annual cost of the January 2011 increase in the rate of value added tax to each income decile of retired households. [26252]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to reducing the Budget deficit while supporting the most vulnerable. Many essential items that pensioners buy are zero-rated, while others are reduced-rated. Additionally, the Government are committed to providing fair support to pensioners, and will uprate the basic state pension by a triple guarantee of earnings, prices and 2.5%—whichever is highest—from April 2011. The Government will increase the basic state pension in April 2011 by at least the equivalent of RPI.

Additionally, as stated by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, expenditure might be a better proxy for lifetime resources than current income, and as such it might be more appropriate to use expenditure deciles for this type of analysis. Chart A3 and A4 in Annex A of the June Budget set out the impacts of indirect tax changes by expenditure deciles, and show that these changes in cash and percentage terms are progressive.

The following table provides estimates in 2011-12 for the average annual cost by income decile of pensioner households from the change in the rate of value added tax. Note these estimates are rounded to the nearest £5.

Income decile of pensioner households	*Average loss (£ per year)*
Bottom	125
2nd	135
3rd	125
4th	135
5th	155
6th	190
7th	225
8th	255
9th	345
Top	475

These estimates provided here have been calculated from HM Treasury's tax and benefit static micro-simulation model using Expenditure and Food Survey 2005 to 2008 data uprated to 2011-12 levels of prices and earnings. The model does not take into account behavioural changes in response to changes to the tax and benefit system or economic conditions and so there is significant uncertainty around the true impact of the value added tax change on retired households.

Timber

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27842]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury Group (including: the Asset Protection Agency, the Debt Management Office and the Office for Budget Responsibility) apply the UK Government guidelines for timber procurement policy as specified by 'the Central Point of Expertise on Timber' on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The furniture procured by HM Treasury Group is sourced from framework suppliers that comply with the Government Buying Standards. The Government Buying Standard for furniture requires that timber must be purchased in accordance with UK timber procurement policy.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel *(a)* who were killed and *(b)* who lost a limb in operations in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan were aged 21 years or younger. [27663]

Nick Harvey: Between 7 October 2001 and 25 November 2010, 37 UK Service personnel aged 21 or under have died as a result of deployment to Op Telic (Iraq), of which 31 were the result of hostile action. 86 UK service personnel aged 21 or under died as a result of deployment to Op Herrick (Afghanistan), of which 82 were the result of hostile action.

Between 1 April 2006 and 31 December 2009, fewer than five UK service personnel aged 21 or under have suffered a traumatic or surgical amputation as a result of an injury sustained while deployed on Op Telic (Iraq). 33 UK service personnel aged 21 or under have suffered a traumatic or surgical amputation as a result of an injury sustained while deployed on Op Herrick (Afghanistan). These range from the loss of part of a finger or toe up to the loss of entire limbs. Figures for 2010 will be available in the new year. Numbers have not been verified prior to 1 April 2006.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average response time was for *(a)* Harriers and *(b)* Tornados when deployed in Afghanistan following a call for close air support from air troops in action in each of the last two years. [23694]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 16 November 2010]:* I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. However, I can confirm that there are no significant differences between the response times of these aircraft.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost was of supplying UK forces serving in Afghanistan utilising truck convoys from Pakistan in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement; [26840]

(2) which trucking companies are contracted by his Department to supply UK forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [26925]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently uses SEAFAST Logistics to deliver materiel from UK depots to Camp Bastion and Kandahar in Afghanistan through a multi-modal transport contract. The element covering transportation by road in Pakistan and Afghanistan has been sub-contracted.

The MOD has a contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions to provide food to UK personnel deployed in the UK and overseas, currently including Afghanistan. Purple Foods is a consortium of three companies, including Supreme Foodservice, who handle logistic arrangements from the UK into Afghanistan via Pakistan.

We do not have visibility of payments made under the sub-contracts placed by SEAFAST or Supreme Foodservice for transportation within Pakistan and Afghanistan and the costs are not therefore separately identified within amounts paid by us.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many force elements at readiness are required to provide close air support in Afghanistan on a long-term basis. [26870]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the readiness of the Afghan national security forces to take control of security in Afghanistan by the end of 2014. [26961]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The NATO Training Mission Afghanistan, of which UK forces form an important part, provides regular assessments of the ability of the Afghan national army and the Afghan national police.

As at the middle of November, the strength of the Afghan national security forces stands at around 144,000 for the Afghan national army, and around 116,000 for the Afghan national police. We assess that the growth in both capacity and capability of the Afghan forces is on track to meet the target of transferring lead responsibility for security to the Afghan forces by the end of 2014.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with what frequency, and by what means, the Government plan to assess the readiness of the Afghan national security forces to take control of security in Afghanistan by the end of 2014. [26962]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* The NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A), of which UK forces form an important part, assesses on a monthly basis the ability of the Afghan national army by brigade and corps and assesses the ability of the Afghan national police by province.

The assessments rate the units based on their ability to operate with varying degrees of international security assistance force (ISAF) support. These assessments will continue in order to ensure that Afghan forces are ready to take the lead for security as the process of transition moves forward.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent under each budgetary heading on running costs for each RAF base in the UK in each of the last five financial years; and what the equivalent figures are for 2010-11. [27579]

Nick Harvey: Under the current budgetary structure, the available figures for expenditure for RAF Stations in the UK since financial year 2005-06 and their planned budgets for financial year 2010-11 are contained in the following table. Expenditure on satellite and lodger units is included in the figures for the appropriate parent station. Service personnel pay costs are not attributable to individual stations from financial year 2009-10 and beyond.

Expenditure by station 2005-06

£ million

	Personnel	*Infrastructure*	*Inventory/Other consumption*	*Equipment support costs*	*Other costs*	*Receipts and other income*	*Total*
RAF Cottesmore	51.00	6.13	15.05	0.83	1.58	-0.05	74.54
RAF Marham	86.57	11.92	18.75	1.43	4.06	-0.12	122.61
RAF Spadeadam	5.33	6.51	0.43	0.35	0.23	-0.29	12.56

Expenditure by station 2005-06

£ million

	Personnel	*Infrastructure*	*Inventory/Other consumption*	*Equipment support costs*	*Other costs*	*Receipts and other income*	*Total*
RAF Coningsby	40.98	9.35	6.05	1.05	1.65	-0.26	58.82
RAF Leeming	50.86	8.92	10.16	2.90	2.67	-0.11	75.40
RAF Leuchars	63.78	10.25	16.55	1.27	2.11	-0.27	93.69
RAF Lossiemouth	78.34	6.11	22.01	1.15	1.46	-0.88	108.19
RAF Brize Norton	125.95	21.02	42.43	4.67	5.50	-5.07	194.50
RAF Honington	73.60	7.40	5.79	1.14	3.58	-0.43	91.08
RAF Lyneham	97.32	14.99	24.54	2.95	6.37	-2.72	143.45
RAF Northolt	13.59	2.38	1.98	10.68	1.07	-5.76	23.94
RAF Waddington	71.94	9.68	9.53	1.39	6.01	-0.21	98.34
RAF Kinloss	69.18	5.63	18.87	1.17	2.48	-0.60	96.73
RAF Boulmer—UK Air Surveillance And Control System (ASACS)	32.68	5.44	1.45	0.72	1.18	-0.16	41.31
RAF Fylingdales	5.72	6.79	0.21	4.02	-0.23	-0.03	16.48
RAF Halton	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF Cranwell	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF Linton on Ouse	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF Shawbury	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF Valley	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF Cosford	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF St Mawgan	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF Wittering	35.85	9.00	11.11	1.14	1.41	-0.11	58.40
RAF High Wycombe	5.51	3.75	0.72	4.72	0.71	-0.13	15.28
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
RAF Odiham	0.05	5.62	14.70	2.87	2.35	-0.25	25.34
RAF Benson	1.05	2.72	8.84	0.94	2.65	-0.35	15.85

[1] Not available

Expenditure by station 2006-07

£ million

	Personnel	*Infrastructure*	*Inventory/Other consumption*	*Equipment support costs*	*Other costs*	*Receipts and other income*	*Total*
RAF Cottesmore	65.62	3.13	19.74	1.39	1.80	-0.52	91.16
RAF Marham	91.87	11.73	28.55	1.41	2.99	-0.88	135.67
RAF Spadeadam	5.16	3.18	0.43	0.49	0.26	-0.22	9.30
RAF Coningsby	64.04	9.16	15.67	1.24	2.01	-1.15	90.97
RAF Leeming	47.00	8.17	8.88	3.24	2.13	-0.47	68.95
RAF Leuchars	64.68	9.82	16.95	1.28	1.61	-0.47	93.87
RAF Lossiemouth	77.65	4.87	20.71	1.34	2.47	-0.74	106.30
RAF Brize Norton	111.39	19.17	47.10	4.34	4.61	-4.63	181.98
RAF Honington	88.62	2.89	5.26	1.22	3.86	-0.53	101.32
RAF Lyneham	82.36	12.10	22.33	3.07	4.02	-2.44	121.44
RAF Northolt	14.00	2.18	1.90	11.81	1.04	-5.83	25.10
RAF Waddington	78.52	4.45	5.26	1.67	3.55	-0.48	92.97
RAF Kinloss	66.55	4.49	17.75	1.32	2.48	-0.93	91.66
RAF Boulmer (ASACS)	45.19	9.39	1.69	1.15	1.70	-0.54	58.58
RAF Fylingdales	5.71	1.42	0.27	8.16	0.19	-0.05	15.70
RAF Halton	22.47	2.75	2.50	7.09	0.98	-0.28	35.51
RAF Cranwell	32.72	4.37	8.34	18.49	1.36	-0.80	64.48
RAF Linton on Ouse	17.45	1.54	2.46	2.55	0.50	-0.10	24.40
RAF Shawbury	12.77	1.63	3.95	7.45	0.66	-0.30	26.16
RAF Valley	15.84	2.57	12.10	16.89	0.71	-0.11	48.00
RAF Cosford	52.31	5.18	2.31	6.57	1.75	-3.55	64.57
RAF St Mawgan	[1]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0.00
RAF Wittering	66.75	4.64	13.04	2.51	3.78	-0.41	90.31
RAF High Wycombe	[1]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]	0.00
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow	9.47	16.00	2.81	1.49	0.82	-0.20	30.39
RAF Odiham	0.00	5.05	12.52	1.24	1.27	-1.08	19.00
RAF Benson	0.70	2.59	5.57	2.11	0.97	—	11.94

[1] Not available

Expenditure by station 2007-08

£ million

	Personnel	*Infrastructure*	*Inventory/Other consumption*	*Equipment support costs*	*Other costs*	*Receipts and other income*	*Total*
RAF Cottesmore	61.92	2.66	34.12	0.91	2.45	-0.50	101.56
RAF Marham	95.65	10.50	33.85	1.55	4.57	-0.95	145.17
RAF Spadeadam	4.89	2.70	0.48	0.42	0.33	-0.33	8.49
RAF Coningsby	63.50	8.87	21.62	1.20	3.36	-0.88	97.67
RAF Leeming	37.81	7.59	6.04	1.38	2.51	-0.84	54.49
RAF Leuchars	60.18	8.89	17.38	1.36	2.56	-0.53	89.84
RAF Lossiemouth	69.14	4.83	27.88	1.26	2.69	-1.44	104.36
RAF Brize Norton	104.04	19.77	72.47	2.41	8.02	-4.95	201.76
RAF Honington	88.14	2.62	7.97	1.25	4.25	-0.22	104.01
RAF Lyneham	76.65	4.24	27.85	7.85	4.98	-2.33	119.24
RAF Northolt	13.30	1.85	2.77	11.48	1.87	-6.76	24.51
RAF Waddington	75.90	4.77	12.59	1.38	4.72	-0.54	98.82
RAF Kinloss	61.53	5.03	17.16	1.32	2.83	-0.77	87.10
RAF Boulmer (ASACS)	43.99	9.30	1.35	1.12	2.16	-0.69	57.23
RAF Fylingdales	5.06	0.32	-0.16	8.04	0.23	-0.05	13.44
RAF Halton	16.21	2.92	2.19	7.48	1.07	-0.33	29.54
RAF Cranwell	22.69	3.63	7.60	19.31	1.32	-0.12	54.43
RAF Linton on Ouse	14.27	1.00	2.73	2.64	0.57	-0.15	21.06
RAF Shawbury	11.95	1.50	3.20	7.92	0.59	-0.54	24.62
RAF Valley	14.67	1.64	12.22	8.74	0.81	-0.34	37.74
RAF Cosford	47.66	3.61	2.37	6.81	1.98	-4.15	58.28
RAF St Mawgan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RAF Wittering	68.91	3.34	6.98	2.65	4.17	-0.40	85.65
RAF High Wycombe	6.26	3.07	0.91	5.61	1.06	-0.38	16.53
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow	9.00	15.89	2.28	1.49	0.64	-0.24	29.06
RAF Odiham	0.00	4.51	10.16	0.48	2.67	-0.57	17.25
RAF Benson	0.15	2.57	12.29	0.56	2.18		17.75

Expenditure by station 2008-09

£ million

	Personnel	*Infrastructure*	*Inventory/Other consumption*	*Equipment support costs*	*Other costs*	*Receipts and other income*	*Total*
RAF Cottesmore	67.16	3.30	30.33	0.85	2.56	-0.59	103.61
RAF Marham	95.33	14.00	27.53	1.57	5.36	-1.03	142.76
RAF Spadeadam	5.18	3.22	0.51	0.59	0.35	-0.23	9.62
RAF Coningsby	63.46	9.71	24.42	1.22	3.79	-0.99	101.61
RAF Leeming	25.23	10.26	6.33	1.03	1.82	-0.57	44.10
RAF Leuchars	56.25	10.91	17.31	1.16	2.55	-0.47	87.71
RAF Lossiemouth	65.39	4.72	26.62	1.40	2.99	-1.12	100.00
RAF Brize Norton	104.77	20.25	95.71	3.47	10.50	-5.61	229.09
RAF Honington	89.01	3.37	7.83	1.54	4.21	-0.30	105.66
RAF Lyneham	75.93	4.49	31.21	6.90	4.46	-2.44	120.55
RAF Northolt	11.40	2.28	3.03	12.02	1.71	-6.77	23.67
RAF Waddington	81.04	4.90	15.85	2.11	4.99	-0.53	108.36
RAF Kinloss	61.29	4.96	23.29	1.42	3.31	-1.03	93.24
RAF Boulmer (ASACS)	42.92	10.02	1.46	1.13	2.15	-0.65	57.03
RAF Fylingdales	4.85	0.10	0.31	9.52	0.49	-0.04	15.23
RAF Halton	17.11	4.23	5.13	8.34	1.53	-0.31	36.03
RAF Cranwell	20.47	4.75	8.48	21.15	1.44	-0.87	55.42
RAF Linton On Ouse	14.69	1.73	3.22	2.80	0.66	-0.15	22.95
RAF Shawbury	12.30	1.99	4.10	8.58	0.64	-0.15	27.46
RAF Valley	13.52	2.51	12.16	7.78	0.87	-0.15	36.69
RAF Cosford	49.94	5.80	1.88	6.92	2.33	-3.00	63.87
RAF St Mawgan	9.59	2.33	0.83	0.69	0.97	-1.48	12.93
RAF Wittering	69.77	4.05	4.61	2.57	4.41	-0.45	84.96
RAF High Wycombe	7.29	4.06	1.10	5.79	1.13	-0.09	19.28
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow	8.12	16.09	2.18	1.48	0.80	-0.24	28.43
RAF Odiham	0.00	5.55	12.68	1.99	2.60	-0.49	22.33
RAF Benson	0.38	2.78	10.59	0.72	2.30		16.77

Expenditure by station 2009-10

£ million

	Personnel (Civilian)	*Infrastructure*	*Inventory/Other consumption*	*Equipment support costs*	*Other costs*	*Receipts and other income*	*Total*
RAF Cottesmore	5.27	2.86	22.53	0.88	2.89	-0.64	33.79
RAF Marham	6.62	14.25	29.15	1.84	5.35	-1.01	56.20
RAF Spadeadam	0.48	0.68	0.62	0.39	0.35	-0.24	2.28
RAF Coningsby	5.67	9.79	17.98	1.15	3.89	-0.96	37.52
RAF Leeming	4.66	10.45	5.00	1.07	1.66	-0.43	22.41
RAF Leuchars	4.66	11.22	5.92	1.12	1.76	-0.46	24.22
RAF Lossiemouth	6.95	4.62	25.20	1.33	3.05	-0.46	40.69
RAF Brize Norton	13.81	19.13	70.42	3.54	9.63	-6.43	110.10
RAF Honington	8.19	3.74	6.50	1.50	3.99	-0.38	23.54
RAF Lyneham	4.27	4.04	24.76	7.17	4.51	-1.50	43.25
RAF Northolt	1.61	5.49	3.22	13.57	2.15	-6.82	19.22
RAF Waddington	6.12	5.89	13.05	1.31	3.47	-3.17	26.67
RAF Kinloss	6.69	4.26	13.91	1.53	2.96	-0.96	28.39
RAF Boulmer (ASACS)	4.11	9.05	1.06	1.11	2.25	-0.57	17.01
RAF Fylingdales	0.24	0.13	0.19	9.91	0.24	-0.02	10.69
RAF Halton	3.62	4.15	4.07	9.19	1.55	-0.27	22.31
RAF Cranwell	4.85	4.14	7.17	22.87	1.25	-0.68	39.60
RAF Linton on Ouse	2.80	1.68	2.88	2.91	0.63	-0.18	10.72
RAF Shawbury	1.66	1.38	3.29	8.73	0.69	-0.34	15.41
RAF Valley	1.24	2.24	9.63	7.72	0.70	-0.42	21.11
RAF Cosford	17.97	4.94	2.63	6.33	2.02	-3.44	30.45
RAF St Mawgan	3.86	4.33	1.28	0.92	0.83	-0.36	10.86
RAF Wittering	6.96	4.42	4.24	2.89	4.56	-0.46	22.61
RAF High Wycombe	1.46	4.13	1.04	6.14	1.05	-0.08	13.74
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow	2.81	13.74	2.44	1.44	0.62	-0.24	20.81
RAF Odiham	0.00	5.30	14.27	0.84	3.91	-0.91	23.41
RAF Benson	0.31	3.26	8.13	1.08	2.65	-0.42	15.01

Planned budget by station 2010-11

£ million

	Personnel (Civilian)	*Infrastructure*	*Inventory/Other consumption*	*Equipment support costs*	*Other costs*	*Receipts and other income*	*Total*
RAF Cottesmore	4.95	2.66	21.19	0.84	2.50	-0.03	32.11
RAF Marham	7.90	5.69	36.83	1.65	4.76	-0.11	56.72
RAF Spadeadam	0.49	0.87	0.47	0.42	0.30	-0.25	2.30
RAF Coningsby	6.15	4.82	28.70	1.14	3.00	-0.27	43.54
RAF Leeming	5.08	4.29	5.05	1.17	1.61	-0.30	16.90
RAF Leuchars	4.90	7.00	9.92	1.15	1.22	-0.20	23.99
RAF Lossiemouth	7.46	4.90	40.82	1.34	2.90	-0.15	57.27
RAF Brize Norton	13.62	9.72	97.75	6.21	8.18	-6.15	129.33
RAF Honington	9.10	2.77	6.63	1.68	3.92	-0.28	23.82
RAF Lyneham	4.48	4.92	31.50	6.79	4.28	-2.11	49.86
RAF Northolt	1.48	4.09	4.28	15.03	2.09	-5.46	21.51
RAF Waddington	6.54	5.70	19.60	1.99	5.10	-0.51	38.42
RAF Kinloss	6.52	3.98	7.88	1.37	2.67	-0.74	21.68
RAF Boulmer (ASACS)	3.98	8.83	1.36	1.38	1.93	-0.29	17.19
RAF Fylingdales	0.23	0.11	0.30	9.67	0.29	-0.03	10.57
RAF Halton	3.50	4.06	2.64	6.69	1.45	-0.23	18.11
RAF Cranwell	5.30	3.51	7.94	24.21	1.30	-0.40	41.86
RAF Linton on Ouse	3.24	1.12	3.12	2.44	0.54	-0.12	10.34
RAF Shawbury	1.76	1.31	1.84	7.72	0.57	-0.06	13.14
RAF Valley	1.41	2.05	12.61	7.92	0.70	-0.22	24.47
RAF Cosford	18.51	4.68	2.73	6.64	1.73	-2.15	32.14
RAF St Mawgan	3.68	2.97	1.46	0.91	0.99	-0.15	9.86
RAF Wittering	8.85	4.13	5.38	3.28	4.59	-0.02	26.21
RAF High Wycombe	1.78	7.70	1.06	0.75	0.95	-0.04	12.20
RAF Brampton/Wyton/Henlow	2.99	13.12	2.46	1.39	0.63	-0.12	20.47
RAF Odiham	0.05	2.85	16.34	1.19	2.52	-0.44	22.51
RAF Benson	0.52	3.13	8.61	0.94	2.50	-0.38	15.32

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of RAF Leuchars; and if he will make a statement. [27581]

Nick Harvey: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) had implications for the entire Defence Estate. Changes to the Royal Air Force force structure mean that RAF Kinloss and two other bases will not be required by the RAF; re-basing of forces in Germany is being accelerated; and greater efficiencies need to be made through estate rationalisation. The Ministry of Defence is now addressing the full range of defence estate issues involved so as to identify and subsequently deliver a long term cost effective solution for defence basing and the estate as a whole.

This is inevitably a complex piece of work going beyond the bases directly affected by the SDSR. No decisions have yet been made, including on the potential future use of those bases affected, and we do not expect to be in a position to make those decisions until spring 2011.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many members of the *(a)* Air Cadets, *(b)* Sea Cadets and *(c)* Combined Cadet Forces there were on the latest date for which figures are available; [26856]

(2) how many members of the Combined Cadet Forces there were on the latest date for which figures are available. [26876]

Mr Robathan: Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) publish the United Kingdom Defence Statistics each year. This is available in the Library of the House and Chapter 2 contains the number of cadets connected with each service since 1997.

The following table gives information on the number of cadets in the Combined Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps at 1 April 2010 to the nearest thousand:

	Number
Combined Cadet Force	44,000
Sea Cadet Corps	8,000
Army Cadet Force	47,000
Air Training Corps	34,000
Total	133,000

Armed Forces: Health Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current shortfall is in respect of each rank of reservist medical personnel; and if he will make a statement. [27574]

Nick Harvey: A breakdown of Defence Medical Services (DMS) reserve medical personnel manning levels are provided in the following tables. While shortfalls exist in some specialties the DMS continue to meet all operational requirements placed on them. Medical support to deployed operations is absolutely vital and there is no question of British forces deploying on military operations without the appropriate medical support.

The reserve forces play a vital role in both overseas operations and in the defence of the UK. Their primary role is to provide additional capability, particularly when our regular forces are operating at maximum effort. The reserve forces are an integral part of the UK's military capability for a wide variety of different types of operations.

The total number of reserve personnel required by the DMS is neither calculated nor held by rank; therefore shortfall is shown by specialty only, as at 1 June 2010.

Defence Dental Reserves

Job/specialty	*Requirement*	*Trained strength*	*Shortfall*
Dental Officers	33	17	16
Dental Nurses	23	12	11
Dental Technicians	2	1	1

Medical Support Staff Reserves

Job/specialty	*Requirement*	*Trained Strength*	*Shortfall*
Pharmacist	31	17	14
Physiotherapist	37	57	-20
Biomedical Scientist/Lab Technician/Tech Officer	66	28	38
Operating Department Practitioner	149	63	86
Healthcare Assistant	270	40	230
ODP Tech Officer	10	3	7
Radiographer	22	16	6
Radiography Tech Officer	22	10	12
EH Technician	21	9	12
Pharmacy Technician	68	6	62
Medical Services Officers	265	201	64
Medical Assistant (Paramedic)	21	16	5
Med Admin/Med Assistant	51	34	17
Medical Assistants/ Combat Medical Technicians/ CMT Paramedics	1,093	854	239

Consultant Reserves

Job/specialty	*Requirement*	*Trained Strength*	*shortfall*
Consultant Burns and Plastics Surgeons	12	2	10
Consultant—Clinical Chemist	1	0	1
Consultant—Medicine	24	9	15
Consultant Anaesthetist	77	31	46
Consultant Emergency Medicine (Accident and Emergency)	34	11	23
Consultant General Surgeons	52	32	20
Consultant Obs-Gynae	0	1	-1
Consultant Haematology	12	2	10
Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeons	2	2	0
Consultant Microbiology	11	2	9
Consultant Neurologist	4	3	1
Consultant Psychiatrists	10	2	8
Consultant Radiologist	10	3	7

Reserve Nurses

Job/specialty	*Requirement*	*Trained Strength*	*shortfall*
Burns	6	3	3
Burns and Plastics	30	5	25

Reserve Nurses

Job/specialty	*Requirement*	*Trained Strength*	*shortfall*
Community Psychiatric Nurse	23	38	-15
ENT	2	0	2
Emergency Medicine	70	68	2
Emergency Medicine Senior	22	13	9
Genito-Urinary	10	13	-3
Clinical Governance	2	1	1
High Dependency Unit	40	28	12
Infection Control	22	15	7
Intensive Care Senior Nurse	22	14	8
Intensive Care Unit	88	51	37
Neurosurgery	25	2	23
Nurse Neuro/Mental Nurse	6	3	3
Nurse Midwife	62	10	52
Nurse Theatre	45	37	8
Nurse Theatre Senior Sister	4	1	3
Nurse/AHP student	59	30	29
Occupational Health	10	9	1
Ophthalmology	32	5	27
Orthopaedic	30	15	15
Paediatric	8	8	0
Primary Health Care	31	37	-6
Registered Nurse (A)[1]	454	223	231
Registered Nurse (A) Emergency Medicine	21	15	6
Registered Nurse (A) Genito Urinary	10	2	8
Registered Nurse (A) Mental Health	23	15	8
RGN (Generalist)	153	116	37

[1] RGN (Generalists) have now been replaced with the term Registered Nurse (A), but the two categories and their respective requirements have not yet been merged.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has allocated for the treatment of seriously injured personnel in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [28234]

Nick Harvey: Funding for the treatment of wounded personnel has been, and will continue to be, made available to match clinical requirements. Expenditure attributable to those injured as a result of operations cannot be separately identified. For example, costs for the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court cover the treatment of all seen there, regardless of the reason for their injury.

The strategic defence and security review announced that the provision of health care to service personnel will be enhanced by an extra £20 million per annum in the spending review years of 2011-12 to 2014-15. This will be used to pay for additional medical staff and to deliver better mental health care facilities.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department allocated for the treatment of seriously injured personnel in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [28235]

Nick Harvey: Funding for the treatment of wounded personnel has been, and will continue to be, made available to match clinical requirements. Expenditure attributable to those seriously injured as a result of operations cannot be identified. For example, costs for the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court cover the treatment of all seen there regardless of the reason for their injury. Expenditure attributable to all those injured on operations is currently claimed back from the Treasury. In 2008-09, the amount reclaimed was £18.2 million. In 2009-10, the amount reclaimed was £20.1 million.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which compulsory training schemes armed forces personnel must complete in order to be designated as fit for combat; [26307]

(2) which optional training schemes are available to armed forces personnel in advance of becoming fit for combat. [26308]

Nick Harvey: All personnel receive the appropriate training prior to deployment. This includes pre-deployment training specific to the role they are expected to undertake. The quantity and nature of this training varies between individuals and units depending on existing skill levels and the function to be filled on deployment but will build on existing military skills obtained from recruit training, trade training and ongoing development training relevant to their particular service and specialisation.

Army

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the required complement of infantry battalions is represented by their present strength. [25680]

Mr Robathan: The question has been interpreted to refer to the required number ("establishment") and the actual number ("strength") of personnel in the Infantry battalions. The figures provided are peacetime establishment numbers but it should be noted that a battalion deploying on operations will be augmented by further Infantry and specialist personnel, as required, to ensure that it has the strength required for its operational role. Such adjustments are not included in the table because of their temporary nature.

The strength figures given are for Infantry-trained officers and soldiers serving at regimental duty. They do not include Infantry-trained personnel in other posts—for instance, those serving in higher headquarters, in Ministry of Defence Centre, in Defence Equipment and Support, or in other non-Regimental posts. The strength numbers will fluctuate up and down on a daily basis as, for example, personnel move from training into the battalions or as personnel complete their service and leave.

The figures shown in the following tables contain similar variations to previous answers provided on this subject, and do not display any new or unexpected trends; the figures requested for the Infantry battalions are correct as of 1 October 2010:

Division	*Unit*	*Establishment*	*Actual strength*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	575	627
	1 Coldstream Guards	569	529
	1 Scots Guards	639	568
	1 Irish Guards	576	602
	1 Welsh Guards	568	548
Scots	1 Scots	573	523
	2 Scots	566	516
	3 Scots	575	483
	4 Scots[1]	640	478
	5 Scots	591	556
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	636	645
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	566	596
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	609	614
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	569	528
	1 Royal Anglian	609	622
	2 Royal Anglian	571	578
Kings	1 Lancs	609	603
	2 Lancs	555	606
	1 Yorks	571	532
	2 Yorks	566	492
	3 Yorks	637	547
Prince of Wales	1 Mercian	571	504
	2 Mercian	566	509
	3 Mercian	637	598
	1 Royal Welsh	565	520
	2 Royal Welsh	637	592
Rifles	1 Rifles	565	601
	2 Rifles	566	561
	3 Rifles	565	595
	4 Rifles	610	627
	5 Rifles	636	652
Royal Irish	1 Royal Irish	588	589
Para	2 Para	587	598
	3 Para	587	590

[1] 4 Scots has been re-roled from Armoured Infantry Battalion to Light Role Infantry Battalion, requiring 72 fewer posts. Establishment liability is yet to be amended.

In addition to the battalions shown, there are three incremental Guards companies whose primary role is public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions as required:

Unit	*Peacetime Establishment*	*Actual Strength*
Nijmegen Coy Grenadier Gds	106	106
7 Coy Coldstream Gds	106	99
F Coy Scots Guards	106	106

It is not our policy to release corresponding data for 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of staff are employed in the ministerial correspondence section of his Department. [27127]

Mr Robathan: There are eight permanent members of staff working in the Ministry Of Defence's Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the date on which the RAF Typhoon will take over responsibility for Quick Reaction Alert from the RAF Tornado. [27578]

Nick Harvey: Typhoon already undertakes Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) duties at RAF Coningsby and in the Falkland Islands. On current plans Typhoon will begin to take up QRA duties at RAF Leuchars, in conjunction with Tornado F3, during December 2010 and will take over complete responsibility in April 2011 when Tornado F3 retires from service.

Ex-servicemen: Higher Education

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing support for ex-service personnel to study at university over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [26861]

Mr Robathan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Universities and Science gave to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 687W.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government spent on contesting the civil action by nuclear test veterans at the War Pensions Tribunal. [26801]

Mr Robathan: To date the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been notified of bills totalling some £150,000 (including VAT) for work associated with defending the civil action.

This figure does not include the cost of any associated MOD staff effort.

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans who were present at UK nuclear tests in 1957 and 1958 have successfully applied under the War Pension Scheme for *(a)* a pension and *(b)* other funds. [26901]

Mr Robathan: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The War Pensions Computer System, which has recorded various statistical data relating to claims and appeals since 1995, does not have the facility to uniquely identify people who participated in nuclear tests and who have claimed a war pension or gratuity.

Compensation in the form of a War Pension is available to all former members of the armed forces who suffer disablement which is attributable to service prior to 6 April 2005 including nuclear test veterans. The causal link may be with any part of their service. There are currently some 180,000 war pensions in payment.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World cup. [27365]

Mr Robathan: We have identified no records of entertainment provided at public expense in relation to FIFA 2010 World cup activities. The provision of entertainment in support of sporting and other cultural activities is permitted only in exceptional circumstances where there is a clear defence benefit.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with Rolls-Royce on the likely effects on the level of employment of his decision to procure the non-short take-off and vertical landing variant of the joint strike fighter. [27279]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* Our decision to procure the carrier variant (CV) of the joint strike fighter (JSF) was based on improved capability and reduced through life costs. I have not had any such discussions with Rolls-Royce regarding the likely effects on the level of employment following this decision. UK industry will benefit from producing CV specific elements and Rolls-Royce will continue to benefit from orders of JSF short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) variant from the US Marine Corps and other international partners. I also continue to engage with the US Administration on the benefits of an alternative engine—the F136 made by Rolls-Royce and General Electric—to the JSF programme as a whole.

Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado force elements his Department maintains at readiness. [26877]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding this information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability and effectiveness of the armed forces.

Military Bases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions the right hon. Member for Doncaster North (Edward Miliband) has participated in a visit to a Ministry of Defence facility in each of the last five years; [26857]

(2) on how many occasions the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy) has participated in a visit to a Ministry of Defence facility in each of the last five years. [26858]

Mr Robathan: The number of visits undertaken by Members of Parliament to defence establishments is not recorded.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the effects on marine patrol aircraft capability of his decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service. [23467]

Peter Luff: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is an Executive agency of the Department for Transport and strategic discussions would take place at departmental level. I can confirm that Ministry of Defence officials have been and continue to be in discussion with officials from the Department for Transport on this and related issues.

Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much additional funding he plans to allocate to the 24 hour support telephone line for veterans as part of the comprehensive spending review settlement for his Department in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [26295]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

The Combat Stress veterans mental health helpline is currently being reconfigured to be a single national number with 24 hour access. This work is being undertaken by Combat Stress in partnership with the Department, and is one of the recommendations contained in the review "Fighting Fit" recently completed by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison). A sum of £1.8 million per year has been granted to support implementation and evaluation of these initiatives during the spending review period. The cost of the 24 hour helpline, including linking it to other services in development, is yet to be determined.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to put in place arrangements to take account of circumstances in which a local government by-election takes place on the same day as elections to the Scottish Parliament and the proposed referendum on the alternative vote. [27695]

Mr Harper: Clause 4 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill ("PVSC Bill") provides that the referendum on the voting system will be combined with the following polls which are scheduled to take place on 5 May:

Elections to the Welsh Assembly

Elections to the Scottish Parliament

Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly

Local elections in England

Local elections in Northern Ireland

Mayoral elections (in four local authorities in England (Bedford, Middlesbrough, Mansfield and Torbay))

Parish elections in England

In addition, we are aware that it is likely that there will be some local mayoral referendums in England on 5 May which will be run on the same boundaries as the referendum on the voting system and local elections. We have included provisions in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill to allow for these polls to also be combined with the referendum.

Any other unscheduled polls, for example a local government by-election in Scotland, can still take place on 5 May but would not be combined with any of the aforementioned polls. In effect, this would mean that separate polling stations would be required for the poll and that some other elements such as notices and forms would not be combined. Since such polls will be run on separate boundaries this will avoid practical difficulties for electoral administrators.

Interim Electoral Management Board for Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing the Interim Electoral Management Board for Scotland on a statutory basis. [27694]

Mr Harper: The Scottish Government introduced the Local Electoral Administration (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament on 7 October 2010. The Bill includes provisions to allow for the Electoral Management Board to be established in statute as an independent body, comprising representatives of Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers. Its convenor will have a statutory power of direction over Returning Officers who are in charge of Scottish local government elections about the exercise of their functions in relation to these elections, and over Electoral Registration Officers about the exercise of their functions in relation to a particular local government election.

The Government introduced the Scotland Bill in Parliament on 30 November. The Bill includes provisions to devolve responsibility for the administration of the Scottish Parliament elections to the Scottish Government in accordance with the recommendations of the Calman Commission. It will be then for the Scottish Government to decide whether they wish to put the Interim Electoral Management Board on a statutory basis for those elections.

For European parliamentary elections a Regional Returning Officer (RRO) is appointed. The RRO has a power of direction over the local Returning Officers in his or her region. There are no plans at this stage to bring forward legislation to put the Interim Management Board for Scotland on a statutory basis in respect of UK parliamentary or European elections. However, we will keep the position under review.

Returning Officers

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements his Department plans to put in place to co-ordinate the work of *(a)* returning officers and *(b)* chief returning officers for elections in (i) 2011 and (ii) subsequent years. [27690]

Mr Harper: Returning Officers are statutorily independent in the performance of their functions. The Electoral Commission has issued performance standards for Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland, elections are delivered by the Chief Electoral Officer. In Scotland, the Interim Electoral Management Board provides co-ordination and planning for elections.

Under the proposals in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, statutory elections which are scheduled to take place on 5 May 2011 will be combined with the referendum on the voting system.

The Electoral Commission has established and chairs a Steering Group to co-ordinate and monitor the planning and delivery of the referendum on further powers for the National Assembly for Wales, the referendum on the voting system and the elections which are set to take place in the spring of 2011.

The Steering Group includes the Chief Counting Officer for both referendums, and the 12 senior Returning Officers, including the Convenor of the Electoral Management Board in Scotland and the Chief Electoral Officer in Northern Ireland and, in the case of the March referendum in Wales, the Deputy Chief Counting Officer, who will be appointed as Regional Counting Officers for the referendum on the voting system. Officials from the Cabinet Office, the Scotland Office, Wales Office, and Northern Ireland Office, Welsh Assembly Government and representatives from the Association of Electoral Administrators are represented on the Steering Group.

The Group has met every month since September 2010 and will continue to meet monthly until after the May 2011 elections and referendum. We will work with the Electoral Commission and members of the Steering Group to review and agree the co-ordination arrangements which need to be put in place for subsequent years.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of expenditure from the public purse on biomedical research relating to myalgic encephalomyelitis in each of the last 10 years. [28078]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The selection of projects for funding by MRC is determined through peer review.

"Biomedical" is not a category the MRC would normally use to classify research in its portfolio. In the last 10 years, MRC expenditure on research relating to CFS/ME was as follows:

	£
2000/01	0
2001/02	0
2002/03	0
2003/04	141,000

	£
2004/05	559,000
2005/06	752,000
2006/07	800,000
2007/08	1.35 million
2008/09	728,000
2009/10	109,000

Projects included within these figures are as follows:

Professor R K Morriss, university of Liverpool—Exploratory RCT of training general practitioners to manage patients with persistent medically unexplained symptoms (MUS).

Professor P White, Queen Mary College, London—The PACE trial: A RCT of CBT, graded exercise, adaptive pacing and usual medical care for the chronic fatigue syndrome.

Dr A Wearden, university of Manchester—Randomised controlled trial of nurse-led self-help treatment for primary care patients with chronic fatigue syndrome.

Dr K Bhui, Queen Mary College, London—Chronic Fatigue and Ethnicity.

Professor F H Creed, university of Manchester—The feasibility of a population-based study of CFS, IBS and CWP.

Dr C Clark, Queen Mary College, London—General and specific risk markers and preventive factors for chronic fatigue and irritable bowel syndromes.

Further information about most of these projects can be found on the MRC's online research portfolio at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/ResearchPortfolio/index.htm

Higher Education: Vocational Guidance

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to improve careers advice for students *(a)* choosing higher education courses and *(b)* during higher education courses. [27968]

Mr Hayes: The Coalition Government are committed to improving the quality of careers advice for students making decisions about education and training. We will establish an all-age careers service in England from April 2012. Careers advisers in the service will have access to clear information about higher education courses and sources of funding. We are also working with the Careers Profession Alliance to ensure that careers advisers have the up to date knowledge and skills they need to advise on career prospects, including for STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Schools will be under a legal duty to secure independent, impartial licensed careers guidance for their students, either from the all-age careers service or from the open market. Higher Education Institutions will continue to provide careers guidance for their students through in-house arrangements. But we will encourage use of the all-age service, and that its quality standards should be widely applied.

Improving information for prospective students is also a key part of our future plans for higher education. The Higher Education Funding Council for England is consulting on proposals that higher education institutions should publish, from September 2012, a standard set of 16 key information items, for each course, on their websites. The information is based on what research shows that students want: information about costs, previous student satisfaction, employment outcomes and number of contact hours.

New Businesses: Advisory Services

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to improve access to advice for new businesses. [27289]

Mr Prisk: The Government are taking measures to modernise how support, information and advice is provided to businesses, as set out in the White Paper "Local Growth—realising every place's potential" which was published on 28 October. The new business improvement landscape will deliver a streamlined, more efficient system of providing information and guidance alongside the private sector, to people in both new and established businesses. It will include:

An improved national website supported by a national contact centre, to provide information and advice.

A highly connected network of 'growth hubs' designed to accelerate business growth.

A national mentoring network to improve access to mentoring provision for both mentors and those looking for mentoring support, as announced on 15 November.

A streamlined portfolio of business improvement products to focus Government funding on where it can best improve economic growth, to be launched by my Department by April 2011.

In addition, my officials are working with the Department for Work and Pensions, which will be providing help locally to unemployed people who want to start a business through the new enterprise allowance which will enable people to retain an equivalent sum to the jobseeker's allowance for a period whilst they start up and also provide them with access to a mentor and small loan if they require capital to start.

I also will be working towards removing any qualification barriers that prevent small firms from accessing Government contracts.

New Businesses: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of his Department's provision of support for business start-ups in the Bradford area. [27290]

Mr Prisk: The Department is establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as set out in the White Paper "Local Growth—realising every place's potential". In Bradford this will be covered by a new LEP for the Leeds city region. This will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

The new LEP for the Leeds city region will be able to draw on the resources available at a national level which will deliver a streamlined, more efficient system of providing information and guidance alongside the private sector, to people in both new and established businesses. This will include:

An improved national website supported by a national contact centre, to provide information and advice.

A highly connected network of 'growth hubs' designed to accelerate business growth.

A national mentoring network to improve access to mentoring provision for both mentors and those looking for mentoring support, as announced on 15 November.

A streamlined portfolio of business improvement products to focus Government funding on where it can best improve economic growth, to be launched by my Department by April 2011.

In addition, my officials are working with the Department for Work who will be providing help locally to unemployed people who want to start a business through the new enterprise allowance which will enable people to retain an equivalent sum to the jobseeker's allowance for a period while they start up and also provide them with access to a mentor and small loan if they require capital to start.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the Regional Development Agency assets he expects to be managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Department of Communities and Local Government under the proposals in paragraph 2.44 of the Local Growth White Paper. [28172]

Mr Prisk: This Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government are working closely together to finalise the arrangements for the management of RDA assets and liabilities between the two Departments. The monetary value of the assets managed by each Department cannot be assessed until this division of assets and liabilities has been completed.

Royal Mail

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Communication Workers Union on the future of Royal Mail. [28330]

Mr Davey: BIS Ministers and officials have held several meetings with representatives of the CWU to discuss the Government's policy on Royal Mail and the provisions in the Postal Services Bill. The meetings were as follows:

Date	
7 June	Meeting with Secretary of State
3 August	Meeting with Edward Davey
31 August	Meeting with officials
9 September	Meeting with Edward Davey
20 September	Stakeholder Briefing Session
3 November	Stakeholder Briefing Session
8 November	Meeting with officials
29 November	Meeting with officials

A further meeting between the CWU and myself has been arranged for 16 December 2010.

SG First Minister

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 888W, on the Scottish Government First Minister, how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* press officers accompanied him to the meeting on 1 June 2010; which (i) Ministers in the Scottish Government, (ii) other Members of the Scottish Parliament, (iii) Scottish Government officials and (iv) political advisers attended the meeting; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the meeting attributable to his Department. [26916]

Mr Davey: Other attendees were Tavish Scott MSP, along with a senior economist from the Office of the Chief Economic Adviser to the Scottish Government, and the Secretary of State and Scottish Government First Minister's private secretaries. It is not possible to isolate the costs of this meeting from the rest of the visit.

Student Loans Company: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a response to his faxed letter of 9 November 2010 to the chief executive of the Student Loans Company regarding a constituent; and for what reasons no acknowledgement was sent. [27944]

Mr Davey: The hon. Gentleman's office was contacted 30 November 2010. They have been advised that the customer was contacted last week with a resolution to her complaint. A response to the MP's letter has been prepared and was issued on 30 November 2010 by Ed Lester.

Since 22 November 2010 all chief executive correspondence parliamentary or otherwise, is acknowledged on the date of receipt. The letter from David Winnick's office was received prior to this change in process.

Students: Fees and Charges

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to take steps following the implementation of the proposed increase in tuition fees to ensure that students have sufficient access to debt management advice after graduation. [27112]

Mr Willetts: Repayment of student loans is income contingent, and graduates will not need to make any repayments until their income is above £21,000. If their loan is not repaid after 30 years, the remaining balance will be written off.

While studying, students have access to the National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA) whose aim is to ensure that students have access to accurate and current information about how to manage their finances and avoid unnecessary debt. We have no plans to introduce specific debt management advice for graduates.

Sunday Trading

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the possible effects on *(a)* parental involvement in children's education and *(b)* parent-child contact time of easing or removing restrictions on Sunday trading; and if he will make a statement. [28004]

Mr Davey: The Government have no plans to change Sunday trading laws and have no plans to conduct research of the type suggested.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* faith groups, *(b)* business leaders and *(c)* others on Sunday trading; and if he will make a statement. [28015]

Mr Davey: I have had no discussions with either faith groups or business leaders on Sunday trading hours.

This Department has received a small amount of correspondence on this issue since the Election, both for and against relaxation of the law.

Teachers: Training

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of teacher training colleges on specialist training of teachers in online teaching strategies. [21905]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

I have had no such discussions, but I am aware that the Online Learning Task Force established by HEFCE is due to make recommendations soon about the development of excellence in online education. On receipt of these I will be able to consider what implications there might be for teacher training.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: East Midlands

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many East Midlands Ambulance Service emergency journeys were made to *(a)* Doncaster Royal Infirmary and *(b)* hospitals in Sheffield in each of the last five years. [27998]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not held centrally. This information may be available directly from East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

Atos Healthcare

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 170W, on Atos Healthcare, what the reasons are for the difference between the figure recorded as paid to Atos in 2009-10 provided in the answer and that provided to Kable in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [27732]

Paul Burstow: Atos Origin is a large international company with several different business arms. The figures recorded in the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 170W, relate to payments since 1 July 2008, for the provision to the Department by Atos Healthcare, a separate trading arm of Atos Origin, of occupational health services. The figures contained in the freedom of information reply relate to payments made between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 to Atos Consulting Ltd and Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd for work on behalf of NHS Connecting for Health, a part of the Department's informatics directorate.

Bassetlaw Hospital: Post-mortems

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many post mortems were carried out at Bassetlaw hospital in each of the last five years. [27997]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally. This information may be available directly from Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust.

Blood: Donors

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the supply of donated blood is free from pathogens; and if he will make a statement; [26934]

(2) whether his Department plans to develop a strategy to reduce risk posed by known and unknown pathogens to the security of the UK blood supply. [26942]

Anne Milton: The UK blood services must comply with the Blood Safety and Quality Regulation (2005), as amended. The principal measure to protect patients against transfusion-transmitted infections is the careful selection of blood donors, supplemented by specific testing for transfusion-transmitted infections.

There are well established systems in place within the UK blood services to identify, assess and respond to threats to the UK blood supply posed by known and emerging pathogens that may be transmitted by transfusion. The independent expert Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) and the National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections (NEPNEI) also monitor developments nationally and internationally, and provide advice to the Department and to the blood services.

A number of safety measures are in place to reduce the risk of transmission of Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) as there is no specific test available for screening of donors. These include lifetime deferral from donation by people who have been advised they may be at increased risk from vCJD and by those previously transfused; leucodepletion of all donated blood; the use of non-UK plasma for production of plasma products such as clotting factors; and importation of fresh frozen plasma for treatment of children under 16.

Clostridium: Death

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* deaths from and *(b)* cases of (i) clostridium difficile and (ii) MRSA there have been in each region in each of the last three years. [26595]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) deaths from and (b) cases of (i) *Clostridium difficile* and (ii) MRSA there have been in each region in each of the last three years. (26595)

Table 1 attached provides (a) the number of deaths where (i) *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) and (ii) methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in each government office region in England, for the years 2007 to 2009 (the latest year available).

It should be noted that these figures include all deaths where *C. difficile* or MRSA was mentioned on the death certificate, either as an underlying cause or contributory factor. Those who die with

C. difficile or MRSA are usually patients who are already very ill, and it is their existing illness which is often designated as the underlying cause of death.

The number of deaths involving MRSA and *C. difficile* registered in England and Wales each year by sex and age are published annually on the National Statistics website:

MRSA:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13571

C. difficile:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14782

Figures for *C. difficile* and MRSA infections are published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Table 2 attached provides (b) the number of (i) *C. difficile* infections in people aged 2 years and over and (ii) MRSA bloodstream infections in acute NHS trusts by government office region in England for the last three financial years 2007/08 to 2009/10 (the latest year available).

The HPA publishes regular reports about antimicrobial surveillance, healthcare associated infections and their consequences for human health in the UK, these are available on the HPA website:

www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/InfectiousDiseases/AntimicrobialAndHealthcareAssociatedInfections/

Table 1. Number of deaths where methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)[1] and Clostridium difficile (C. difficile)[2] was mentioned on the death certificate, government office regions in England, 2007-09[3, 4]

						Deaths (persons)
	MRSA			*C. difficile*		
Government office region	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	85	88	53	328	347	311
North West	199	171	99	1,010	980	733
Yorkshire and The Humber	130	105	68	510	486	298
East Midlands	116	98	65	823	502	339
West Midlands	202	147	69	1,255	771	440
East of England	192	105	68	1,035	465	330
London	174	133	98	1,001	534	289
South East	224	167	118	1,080	750	481
South West	195	123	80	874	630	329

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Statistical Bulletin: Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 2009. Available at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mrsa0810.pdf

[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Statistical Bulletin: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2009. Available at:
www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cdif0810.pdf

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)[1] bloodstream infections and Clostridium difficile (C. difficile)[2] infections in acute NHS trusts by government office region in England, 2007-09[3, 4]

						Infections
	MRSA			*C. difficile*		
Government office region	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
North East	302	188	84	3,379	2,706	1,873
North West	670	419	303	9,574	6,722	4,909
Yorkshire and The Humber	519	356	226	5,156	4,091	2,463
East Midlands	254	187	138	3,691	2,475	1,957
West Midlands	511	307	161	7,071	4,088	3,065
East of England	333	213	146	5,573	2,818	2,265
London	823	579	409	7,270	4,326	3,011
South East	586	395	257	7,616	5,003	3,538
South West	453	291	174	6,168	3,866	2,523

[1] Figures for the number of infections are provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Infections are identified using the methodology described in the HPA report: Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance: 2009/10. Available at:
www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1281954479045

[2] The number of *Clostridium difficile* infections is given for people aged two years and over.

[3] Based on HPA regions which are equivalent to Government office regions.

[4] Figures are for infections in each financial year.

General Practitioners

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he proposes to place an obligation on the proposed GP consortiums to deliver an integrated continence service. [28079]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper "Liberating the NHS" set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices.

GP consortiums will have responsibilities for commissioning a comprehensive range of services that meets the needs of their local populations.

We propose that GP consortia will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of national health service services. We will expect consortiums to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, and more efficient use of NHS resources. This will create an effective dialogue across all health, and where appropriate, social care, professionals.

Influenza: Young People

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on young children of influenza vaccinations. [27820]

Anne Milton: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) reviews all relevant evidence on seasonal influenza vaccines, and all other vaccines used in the United Kingdom, in order to ensure its advice is based on current scientific and medical evidence. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) monitors reports on the safety of all medicines, including vaccines, through its Yellow Card Reporting system.

The Health Protection Agency is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the impact, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the UK's influenza vaccination programme and possible extensions to it, including the routine vaccination of all children. This assessment was requested in February 2010 by the JCVI and the Department. The study is expected to complete during 2011 and will then be considered by JCVI.

The Department commissioned a Health Technology Assessment in August 2009 to compare the immunogenicity of the two H1N1 swine influenza vaccines, and any local or systemic symptoms after vaccination, in children aged six months to 12 years. Early data from this study informed JCVI advice on the H1N1 swine influenza vaccination programme. The study was conducted through the National Institute for Health Research Evaluation Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC) and the report has been published at:

www.netscc.ac.uk/supporting_research/flu_project_portfolio/099401.asp

The report has been placed in the Library.

In the current seasonal influenza vaccination programme, vaccination is recommended for children aged six months and older with certain medical conditions that put them at increased risk of complications from influenza.

Marijuana

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of marijuana on the body's immune functions. [27821]

Anne Milton: The National Addiction Centre at King's College London produced, on behalf of the Department, 'Dangerousness of Drugs' (2003) which looked at the health harms of drugs and concluded that the effect of cannabis on the immune system was not known. The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse is in the process of commissioning an update of this document.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs looked at the evidence of harms caused by cannabis use in a number of reports since 2002. These have not identified effects on the immune system.

Maternity Services

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the implementation of *(a)* Maternity Matters, *(b)* the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, *(c)* the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery and *(d)* Midwifery 2020. [27730]

Anne Milton: "Maternity Matters, Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service—and the National Service Framework (NSF) for children, young people and maternity services" set out the previous Administration's commitment to improve heath services for women and their children. We set out our long-term vision for the future of the national health service in the White Paper, "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS". By focusing on health outcomes and developing provider maternity networks, bringing together all the maternity services a mother may need, we will deliver high quality maternity services where women are able to make safe, informed choices a reality throughout pregnancy, birth and postnatally. "Maternity Matters" and the "NSF" have helped the NHS to lay the foundations for some of this work.

In October, we published a consultation document, "Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control. A consultation on proposals", seeking views on a range of choice issues, including which maternity choices users would like to see in place and which of these are most important. The consultation closes on 14 January 2011 and we encourage anyone with an interest in maternity services to respond.

Ministers and policy officials are considering the recommendations of "Front Line Care: Report by the Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery in England" which was published in March 2010 in the light of the new Government's plans. A response will be issued in due course.

Ministers welcomed the vision of midwifery services and key messages laid out in the final report of the Midwifery 2020 programme "Midwifery 2020: Delivering expectations" published in September 2010. Decisions about implementation of Midwifery 2020 are a matter for local decision-makers.

Mental Health Services

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that secure private mental health hospitals treating NHS patients refer or discharge patients as soon as they are ready to be moved to a different institution or discharged; and if he will make a statement; [27800]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to ensure that mental health patients in NHS hospitals are discharged back into the community as soon as they are ready; and if he will make a statement; [27801]

(3) what the Government's policy is on discharging mental health patients from high security institutions; and if he will make a statement. [27802]

Paul Burstow: It is for clinicians to decide whether in-patients are fit to be discharged from hospital. It is for commissioners of the national health service, whether provided by NHS or independent providers, to put in place arrangements to ensure that patients with mental health problems do not remain in a hospital longer than is appropriate.

Patients should be treated in conditions of security appropriate to the particular circumstances of their case. If they no longer require treatment in conditions of a particular level of security, their treatment should be moved to a more appropriate location as soon as the arrangements necessary for their continued treatment can be made.

National Nomenclature Review Panel

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who established the National Nomenclature Review Panel; when it was established; who the *(a)* members are and *(b)* chair is of that panel; what timetable has been set for the outcomes of the work of that panel; to whom that panel will report; and whether its report will be published. [27740]

Anne Milton: There is no National Nomenclature Review Panel. Some work is being carried out by NHS North West and NHS South West to create a common offer to ease navigation of the urgent and emergency care system for patients. The objective is to identify an evidence-based classification for safe levels of urgent and emergency care. The analysis is clinically guided by Sir John Oldham and Professor Matthew Cooke, National Clinical Director for Urgent and Emergency Care. This work is not about standardising the services offered locally; rather it is to standardise the definitions of these services to help commissioners and create clarity for patients.

NHS Walk-in Centres: Closures

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS walk-in centres closed in *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Salford, *(c)* Greater Manchester, *(d)* the North West and *(e)* England in the last six months. [27948]

Paul Burstow: Decisions about the provision of walk-in services in primary care are an individual decision local primary care trusts (PCTs) and routine information on the provision of such services in the national health service is not monitored by the Department. However, we are aware of only one general practitioner-led walk in centre that has been decommissioned recently, in Stockport, although we are aware that a number of other PCTs may be carrying out service reviews that could result in service reconfigurations.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the largest single severance package agreed by hospital trusts in Leicester was in the last five years; and on what grounds it was agreed. [28090]

Anne Milton: The Department started collecting severance payment information during the 2008-09 financial year so cannot go back five years. The largest single severance package agreed by hospital trusts in Leicester since then was in 2009 for £25,000 at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. It was agreed on grounds of good value for money.

Prescription Drugs: Imports

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which bodies are responsible for enforcing legal requirements in respect of the importation of prescription drugs; and whether he plans to review legislation in this area. [25827]

Anne Milton: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) an executive agency of the Department, regulates medicines for human use in the United Kingdom through the Medicines Act 1968 and other supporting regulations.

Offences under medicines legislation are criminal. The MHRA has powers to take action against manufacturers, which includes the activity of import from a third country (non European economic area member state) and distributors that fail to meet the provisions of medicines legislation and appropriate standards. The MHRA will take regulatory action where breaches are identified. This may take the form of revoking licences or the instigation of criminal proceedings and bring a criminal prosecution if and when necessary.

The MHRA completed its last review of the licensing arrangements for pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesale distributors of medicines for human use in October 2005.

A further review of the supply chain of medicines of human use in the UK is currently being conducted. This further review will take account of the outcome of the European Commission's own proposal for preventing counterfeit medicines entering the supply chain.

If the prescription medicine for importation is also a controlled drug, importers also require a licence from the Home Office, under misuse of drugs legislation.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with Southern Cross Healthcare on continuing provision for residents of that company's care homes. [27985]

Paul Burstow: The responsibility for providing or arranging publicly supported residential accommodation under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 rests with councils with adult social services (CASSRs), not the Department.

Any discussions regarding continuing provision for residents of care homes should take place between care providers and CASSRs.

Wheelchairs

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the adequacy of availability of electric wheelchairs to disabled people. [27966]

Paul Burstow: The provision of wheelchair services is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts. They allocate wheelchairs to individuals, including electric wheelchairs, on the basis of locally developed eligibility criteria which consider individuals' needs and local resources.

We recognise that current wheelchair provision is not as good as it could be. That is why the Department is currently exploring how to improve the commissioning approach so that it facilitates the provision of efficient, comprehensive and responsive wheelchair and seating services focussed on the health, social and lifestyle needs of the service user.

The work is being developed in partnership with the national health service, third sector organisations, service users and other key stakeholders. Two pilot sites in the South West and East of England are currently gathering information and views on the best commissioning model for wheelchair services and exploring opportunities for improved procurement and delivery in the services.

Timber

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27844]

Paul Burstow: Neither the Department, its agencies nor its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have made a specific assessment of compliance with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber.

However, the Department and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have conducted assessments of compliance with the Government's timber procurement policy and no instances of non-compliance were identified. The Department has not assessed the compliance of its NDPBs with this policy.

Wycombe Hospital

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the running costs of Wycombe hospital was paid to the private finance initiative (PFI) provider in each year from 2000 to 2009; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of running costs that will be paid to the PFI provider in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [27814]

Paul Burstow: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is collected by trust, not by individual hospital. Wycombe hospital is part of Buckinghamshire Healthcare National Health Service Trust, which has two private finance initiative (PFI) schemes: one covering the rationalisation of acute services at Wycombe hospital and Amersham hospital that opened in October 2000, and one covering the partial redevelopment of Stoke Mandeville hospital that opened in April 2006.

Data for the proportion of total operating expenses by Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust in respect of its PFI schemes are set out in the following table.

Data are not held centrally for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust proportion of total operating expenses relating to PFI

	Percentage of total operating expenses relating to PFI
2003-04	2.7
2004-05	2.5
2005-06	3.8
2006-07	6.5
2007-08	7.6
2008-09	7.8
2009-10	7.1

Notes:

1. The Department of Health holds accounting data at organisation level for only seven years, and therefore data prior to 2003-04 is not available.

2. The figures provided represent the net operating expenses in respect of PFI schemes as a proportion of total operating expenses.

3. 2003-04 to 2008-09 figures were compiled under UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP). Under UK GAAP, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust had two separate PFI schemes, one of which was off-balance sheet (Stoke Mandeville), and one of which was on-balance sheet (Wycombe and Amersham). For 2003-04 to 2008-09 the figures are prepared under UK GAAP and the finance costs (interest) associated with the PR schemes are not separately identifiable. In order that the numerator and denominator are consistent, we have taken net operating expenses relating to PFI schemes (which excludes finance costs) as a percentage of total operating expenses (which also excludes finance costs).

4. 2009-10 accounts were compiled under International Finance Reporting Standards, under which PFI costs in the audited summarisation schedules of Trusts are split between capital repayments and revenue expenditure elements, which does not make a precise like for like comparison with earlier years in this table possible. However, an estimate of the PFI unitary payment for 2009-10 is held centrally by the Department as well as the audited outturn revenue expenditure figure for the Trust for this year. The percentage figure for this year is calculated using these two figures.

Source:

Trust audited summarisation schedules, 2003-04 to 2009-10

CABINET OFFICE

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 138W, on the BBC, whether *(a)* he, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* Cabinet Office special advisers have had meetings with the director-general of the BBC since 1 August 2010. [27041]

Mr Maude: Details of Cabinet Office Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 13 May to 31 July can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-cabinet-office/plans-performance/ministers-data.aspx

Information for 1 August to 30 September will be published shortly.

No Cabinet Office special advisers have had meetings with the director-general of the BBC.

Records of civil servants' meetings are not held centrally.

Charities: Student Unions

Conor Burns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether any student unions were not registered as charities in the latest period for which figures are available; [28184]

(2) which students' unions are registered as charities. [28185]

Mr Hurd: This is a matter for the Charity Commission. I have, therefore, asked the chief executive of the Commission to reply.

Letter from Sam Younge, dated 30 November 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Questions on whether any students' unions were not registered as charities in the latest period for which figures are available, and which students' unions are registered as charities.

As you may know, the Charities Act 2006 aimed to ensure that all organisations with charitable status are subject to the same accountability requirements. This entails some changes to the way that "exempt charities" will be regulated. Exempt charities for which no suitable principal regulator can be identified will lose their exempt status and become excepted. This means they will fall fully within the supervision of the Charity Commission, but initially only those charities with an annual income of over £100,000 will have to register. Students' unions which are capable of being charitable fall within this category.

This part of the Charities Act 2006 came into force on 1 June 2010. There is a large volume of work involved for all concerned and we recognise that it is not practical for all the charities affected to register immediately. We have worked with the National Union of Students to produce a model governing document for students' unions, which helps to simplify and streamline the registration process.

In answer to your first question on whether any students' unions were not registered as charities in the latest period for which figures are available, I should be clear that we have not refused any applications for charitable registrations from students' unions. However there will be some unions which are not required to register with us, and others which are not yet ready to apply.

In answer to your second question on which students' unions are registered as charities, since 1 June 2010 we have registered 24 students' unions, as follows:

Students' union of Bath Spa University

Students' union of Brighton University

Students' union of Cambridge University

Students' union of Cardiff University

Students' union of De Montfort University

Students' union of Exeter University

Students' union of Huddersfield University

Students' union of University of Kent

Students' union of University of Keele

Students' union of King's College London

Students' union of Lancaster University

Students' union of Leeds University

Students' union of Leicester University

Students' union of Lincoln University

Students' union of Liverpool Guild of Students

Students' union of Newcastle University

Students' union of Northumbria, University of

Students' union of University of Nottingham

Students' union of University of Portsmouth

Students' union of Salford University

Students' union of University of Teesside

Students' union of Warwick University

Students' union of Wolverhampton University

Students' union of York St John University

As of today's date, we have also received applications from 11 further unions, as follows, which we are currently assessing and processing:

Students' union of Coventry University

Students' union of Hull University

Students' union of Leeds Met University

Students' union of Liverpool University

Students' union of Middlesex University

Students' union of Oxford University

Students' union of Roehampton University

Students' union of University of Essex

Students' union of University of Bristol

Students' union of Trinity St. Davids Co

Students' union of Unversity of West London

We are anticipating no more than 120 registration applications from students' unions. We are satisfied that good progress is being made in implementing this part of the Charities Act 2006.

I hope this is helpful.

Electronic Government

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the average cost per transaction of transacting public registration services *(a)* manually and *(b)* online. [26279]

Mr Maude: Although we do not hold average figures for Government, research by PricewaterhouseCoopers commissioned by Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion and published in the Economic Case for Digital Inclusion in October 2009—suggests average costs per transaction of £10.53 for face-to-face, £3.39 for telephone, £12.10 for post and £0.08p online.

Employment

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population of *(a)* North Tyneside, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* England, *(d)* London and *(e)* the South East is employed in the (i) public and (ii) private sector. [27634]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population of (a) North Tyneside, (b) the North East, (c) England, (d) London and (e) the South East is employed in the (i) public and (ii) private sector (027634).

The Office for National Statistics' (ONS) preferred source of statistics for public sector employment is the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and external sources, however, figures from this source are not available for local authority and parliamentary constituencies.

Alternatively public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in QPSES statistics. Therefore the estimates for the North East, England, London and the South East are not consistent with those published in the Public Sector Employment Statistical Bulletin, but are consistent with the estimates for North Tyneside.

Table 1 shows the levels and proportions of the resident population employed in the private and public sector in (a) North Tyneside, (b) the North East, (c) England, (d) London and (e) the South East. Data has been provided for the most recent APS period, April 2009 to March 2010.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Levels and proportions of the resident population of England, North East, North Tyneside local authority, North Tyneside parliamentary constituency, London and the South East employed in (i) public and (ii) private sector

	April 2009 to March 2010			
	Level (thousand)		Proportion (percentage)	
	Public	Private	Public	Private
England	*5,832	*18,206	24	76
North East	*331	*782	30	70
North Tyneside LA	**29	**64	32	68
North Tyneside PC	***14	**30	33	67
London	*829	*2,854	23	77
South East	*715	*584	22	78

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Employment: Scotland

Margaret Curran: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow East constituency in each of the last five years. [27771]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the (a) public and (b) private sector in (a) Scotland, (b) Glasgow and (c) Glasgow East constituency in each of the last five years. (027771)

Public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1 shows the levels and proportions of the resident population employed in the private and public sector in (a) Scotland, (b) Glasgow City Local Authority and (c) Glasgow East Parliamentary Constituency. Data has been provided for the April to March 2010, the latest period for which data is available, and April to March of the previous four years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Levels and proportions of the resident population of Scotland, Glasgow City Local Authority and Glasgow East Parliamentary Constituency employed in public and private sector

	Scotland				Glasgow City LA				Glasgow East PC			
12 months ending	Level (thousand)		Proportion (percentage)		Level (thousand)		Proportion (percentage)		Level (thousand)		Proportion (percentage)	
	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public
March 2006	1,728	712	70	29	174	73	70	30	28	11	72	28
March 2007	1,773	717	71	29	173	81	68	32	27	10	72	28
March 2008	1,807	708	72	28	195	72	73	27	21	7	75	25
March 2009	1,793	718	71	29	184	78	70	30	24	8	76	24
March 2010	*1,741	*711	71	29	*178	**75	70	30	***19	****5	78	22

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many EU directives are pending transposition into domestic legislation by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each such transposition. [27480]

Mr Hurd: The Department does not have any EU directives pending transposition into domestic legislation.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup in respect of *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. [27372]

Mr Hurd: Neither the Prime Minister's Office nor the Deputy Prime Minister's Office spent any money on entertainment related to the activities of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Population: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the population of the London borough of Newham; and what methodology his Department used to make that estimate. [27630]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the population of the London Borough of Newham; and what methods are used to make that estimate (27630).

The ONS produces annual estimates of the resident population of England and Wales by local authority, as at 30 June each year. The latest available estimate of the resident population of the London Borough of Newham is for mid-2009 and is 241,200 people.

The resident population is defined by the standard United Nations definition for population estimates, and includes people who reside in an area for a period of at least 12 months whatever their nationality. The number of long-term international migrants (people who move into or out of the UK for at least 12 months) is estimated and included in the resident population. Visitors and short-term migrants (people who enter or leave the UK for less than 12 months) are not included as part of the resident population.

ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates are calculated using the cohort component method, which is an internationally recognised demographic method. The method takes the previous year's population estimate, ages the population by one year, adds in the number of births and takes away the number of deaths that have taken place during the year. The method also incorporates estimates of both international migration (moves to and from the UK for a period of at least one year) and internal moves within the UK.

A copy of the annotated flow-chart "Mid-year Population Estimates: England & Wales" providing a detailed summary of the cohort component method as used by ONS, is available in the House of Commons Library.

The local authority mid-year population estimates are published on the ONS website along with details of each of the estimated components of population change.

ONS is leading the cross-government Migration Statistics Improvement Programme which is developing improved methods for population estimation. Initial methodological improvements were incorporated in the population statistics that were published in May 2010. These represent a real improvement in the quality of the migration and population estimates. They are the result of extensive research by ONS and a large scale engagement programme with users.

Public Sector: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average monetary value was of a Government contract awarded to a *(a)* small enterprise and *(b)* medium-sized enterprise in 2009-10. [27641]

Mr Maude: This information is not held centrally. Under Government transparency commitments all Departments will be required to publish their contracts from January 2011. As part of this measure they will be required to state whether the contract has been awarded to an SME.

EDUCATION

Academies

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether selective grammar schools in the state sector which become academies may retain their current selective admissions criteria. [18940]

Mr Gibb: The Academies Act 2010 allows existing maintained grammar schools and partially selective schools to become academies and retain their selective arrangements. However, it specifically requires that all other academies admit pupils of all abilities. Academies which were not selective as maintained schools cannot, therefore, introduce selection by ability.

Academies: Finance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding has been allocated *(a)* for provision to schools of academy conversion expenses grants and *(b)* for other expenses incurred as a result of schools transferring to academies. [9100]

Mr Gibb: We recognise that schools converting to academies may incur costs, such as obtaining legal advice on the documents necessary for setting up an academy and advice on the process for transferring staff and other costs. As a contribution to these costs, a grant of £25,000 will be made.

Adoption

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children have been put up for adoption following contested court hearings in each of the last five years. [26122]

Tim Loughton: Information on the number of children adopted during the years ending 31 March 2007 to 2010 where parental consent had been dispensed with, is shown in the table.

Information was not collected prior to the year ending 31 March 2007.

Children who ceased to be looked-after during the years ending 31 March, by gender, age on ceasing, reason episode ceased, category of need and ethnic origin [1, 2, 3, 4], *years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, England*

Number/percentage

	Number					*Percentage*				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
All looked-after children who ceased to be looked-after	25,900	25,000	24,500	25,000	25,100	100	100	100	100	100
Gender	25,900	25,000	24,500	25,000	25,100	100	100	100	100	100
Male	14,000	13,600	13,100	13,700	13,700	54	54	54	55	55
Female	11,900	11,400	11,300	11,300	11,400	46	46	46	45	45
Age on ceasing (years)	25,900	25,000	24,500	25,000	25,100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	5	5	5	5	5
1 to 4	5,500	5,400	5,560	5,900	5,900	21	21	23	24	23
5 to 9	3,800	3,600	3,200	3,300	3,400	15	14	13	13	14
10 to 15	6,900	6,500	5,900	5,600	5,400	27	26	24	23	22
16 and over	8,200	8,200	8,500	8,800	9,100	32	33	35	35	36
Reason episode ceased	25,900	25,000	24,500	25,000	25,100	100	100	100	100	100
Adopted—application unopposed[5]	[10]3,700	1,700	1,700	1,800	1,700	[10]14	7	7	7	7
Adopted—consent dispensed with[5]	[10]—	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,500	[10]—	6	6	6	6
Died	60	70	50	50	50	—	—	—	—	—
Care taken by another LA	240	240	190	170	170	1	1	1	1	1
Returned home to live with parents or relatives	11,000	10,200	9,500	9,500	9,800	42	41	39	38	39
Residence order granted	930	1,000	910	930	1,000	4	4	4	4	4
Special guardianship order made to former foster carers[6]	[10]70	500	770	810	840	[10]—	2	3	3	3
Special guardianship order made to carers other than former foster carers[6]	[10]—	260	360	430	420	[10]—	1	1	2	2
Moved into independent living (with supportive accommodation)	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,200	2,300	9	10	10	9	9
Moved into independent living (with no formalised support)	960	940	1,000	1,000	1,000	4	4	4	4	4
Transferred to residential care funded by adult social services	470	500	480	530	470	2	2	2	2	2
Sentenced to custody[7]	n/a	250	360	350	310	n/a	1	1	1	1
Care ceased for any other reason	6,100	5,300	5,200	5,700	5,500	24	21	21	23	22
Category of need[8]	25,900	25,000	24,500	25,000	25,100	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	12,400	12,000	12,100	12,700	12,800	48	48	50	51	51
Child's disability	850	800	710	770	760	3	3	3	3	3
Parents illness or disability	1,700	1,600	1,400	1,300	1,100	6	6	6	5	5
Family in acute stress	2,800	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,800	11	11	11	10	11
Family dysfunction	3,300	3,300	3,200	3,300	3,600	13	13	13	13	14
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,500	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,000	6	5	5	4	4
Low income	70	80	50	70	70	—	—	—	—	—
Absent parenting	3,300	3,300	3,100	3,300	3,000	13	13	13	13	12

Children who ceased to be looked-after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on ceasing, reason episode ceased, category of need and ethnic origin[1, 2, 3, 4] *years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, England*

Number/percentage

	Number					*Percentage*				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Ethnic origin	25,900	25,000	24,500	25,000	25,100	100	100	100	100	100
White	19,100	18,100	17,500	17,300	17,300	74	72	71	69	69
White British	17,900	17,000	16,500	16,300	16,300	69	68	67	65	65
White Irish	200	180	130	150	140	1	1	1	1	1
Traveller of Irish Heritage[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	10	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Gypsy/Roma[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	40	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Any other White background	980	940	850	830	810	4	4	3	3	3
Mixed	2,000	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	8	7	8	8	8
White and Black Caribbean	730	620	670	690	690	3	2	3	3	3
White and Black African	200	180	190	230	240	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	270	290	300	340	270	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	810	760	810	740	810	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British	1,100	1,300	1,400	1,800	1,800	4	5	6	7	7
Indian	150	150	160	180	160	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	270	310	310	410	430	1	1	1	2	2
Bangladeshi	150	170	180	210	250	1	1	1	1	1
Any other Asian background	580	680	760	1,000	920	2	3	3	4	4
Black or Black British	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,500	11	11	11	11	10
Caribbean	730	670	700	720	710	3	3	3	3	3
African	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,400	6	6	6	6	6
Any other Black background	480	480	480	430	420	2	2	2	2	2
Other Ethnic groups	790	970	940	1,100	1,200	3	4	4	5	5
Chinese	120	160	130	120	120		1	1		
Any other ethnic group	670	810	800	1,000	1,100	3	3	3	4	4
Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	130	270	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1
Refused[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	20	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Information not yet available[9]	n/a	n/a	n/a	120	250	n/a	n/a	n/a		1

n/a = not applicable.

— = negligible. Percentage below 0.5%.

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10, otherwise. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. See Technical Notes for more information on rounding.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked-after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked-after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[5] Prior to 2006-07, the number of children looked-after who were adopted could not be disaggregated.

[6] In 2005-06 the number of children who ceased to be looked-after due to the granting of a special guardianship order could not be disaggregated.

[7] 'Sentenced to custody' was first collected in 2007.

[8] The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child started to be looked-after rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked-after.

[9] Ethnic origin classification collected for the first time in 2009.

[10] Indicates brace.

Source:
SSDA 903.

Business: Education

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on funding for enterprise education in schools and colleges; and if he will make a statement. [18819]

Mr Gibb: We have had no discussions to date with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on funding for enterprise education in schools and colleges. Department for Education Ministers are considering the future funding of enterprise education beyond financial year 2010-11 as part of the spending review process.

Children's Centres: Closures

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* Sure Start children's centres and *(b)* other children's centres in each constituency in (i) Greater Manchester and (ii) Lancashire are (A) proposed for closure and (B) under consideration for closure. [21725]

Sarah Teather: Children's centres are at the heart of the Government's vision for supporting families with young children and intervening early to prevent problems from becoming crises. That is why the recent spending review announced that there is funding available to maintain the current network of children's centres.

The Department for Education does not collect data on Sure Start Children's Centres which are proposed for closure or under consideration for closure. However local authorities have duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing Sure Start children's centres and to secure sufficient children's centres provision to meet local need.

Children's Centres: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much ringfenced funding he has allocated to children's centres in Stoke-on-Trent in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [22836]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 9 November 2010]:* The spending review announced that Sure Start funding will be protected in cash terms, including investment in health visitors. This means there is funding to keep the network of Sure Start children's centres as a universal service, whilst ensuring it reaches families in greatest need.

The hon. Member will appreciate that the Department is now working through the details of the spending review announcements. I am unable to confirm an allocation for Stoke-on-Trent at this time. Allocations for all local authorities will be announced in due course.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of those students receiving education maintenance in the *(a)* £30, *(b)* £20 and *(c)* £10 bands who would be eligible for financial assistance to undertake a course of study through the discretionary learner support fund in the academic year 2011-12. [26461]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Decisions regarding the new discretionary fund will be made locally, enabling schools, colleges and training providers to target support at those young people in greatest need. The Government do not intend to prescribe how many young people should receive support under the new arrangements.

Current discretionary funds support around 200,000 young people each year. The new fund will be around three times greater than current funds.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assistance his Department plans to provide to further education institutions to administer the discretionary learner support fund in the academic year 2011-12. [26462]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* We will work with representatives of schools, colleges and training providers to finalise the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, including how the funding will flow to institutions and what guidance is required to administer the fund effectively.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether travel costs for students undertaking a course at a further education institution may be met through the discretionary learner support fund in the 2011-12 academic year. [26463]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* Discretionary support funding may not currently be used routinely for transport to and from college. The statutory responsibility for making the necessary arrangements for transport to enable 16 to 18-year-olds (and 19 to 25-year-olds with a learning difficulty or disability) to attend education and training lies with local authorities.

We will consider this restriction as we develop the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support funding.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms are in place to ensure that discretionary learner support fund payments will be made available for eligible students at the start of the next academic year; and what penalties will be imposed in respect of institutions which are unable to meet the commitment to fund students at the start of the academic year. [26579]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* We plan to allocate the enhanced funding in line with the timetable for overall funding allocations for schools and colleges, which will be made by the end of March.

We will work with representatives of schools, colleges and training providers to finalise the arrangements for the enhanced fund, including how the funding will flow to institutions and what guidance is required to administer the fund effectively.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanism will be in place to assist an institution which exhausts its discretionary learner support fund allocation and subsequently deems more students to require funding during the academic year 2011-12. [26580]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* We plan to seek the views of education providers as we finalise the details of how the enhanced discretionary learner support fund will operate. We would expect schools, colleges and training providers to use their allocation to target those who most need it to enable them to participate in education.

Arrangements for the current discretionary learner support fund provide for unused funds to be redistributed to providers which indicate they need more resource.

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department plans to issue to schools on the allocation of the enhanced discretionary learner support fund. [27288]

Mr Gibb: We will work with representatives of schools, colleges and training providers to finalise the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, including how the funding will flow to institutions and what guidance is required to administer the fund effectively.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of people in each *(a)* socio-economic and *(b)* ethnic group received education maintenance allowance in each constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [26466]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students normally resident in Bradford East constituency receive education maintenance allowance. [27291]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bradford East with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students normally resident in Coventry receive education maintenance allowance; and what estimate he has made of the number who will receive this allowance following implementation of proposals in the comprehensive spending review. [27461]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in *Hansard* and the House Libraries.

GCE A-level

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in further education colleges were entered for *(a)* history, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* media studies and *(e)* psychology A-levels in each year since 1997; and what proportion this represented of the total number of pupils in such colleges entered for A-levels in each such case. [20231]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following table:

Number and percentage of students in further education colleges entered for selected A-level subjects, 1997-2010

	History		*Media studies*		*Psychology*		*Chemistry*		*Physics*	
	Number entered for subject	*% of those entered for A-levels*	*Number entered for subject*	*% of those entered for A-levels*	*Number entered for subject*	*% of those entered for A-levels*	*Number entered for subject*	*% of those entered for A-levels*	*Number entered for subject*	*% of those entered for A-levels*
1997	9,653	11.2	5,649	6.6	14,686	17.1	9,182	10.7	6,750	7.9
1998	8,741	10.3	6,662	7.9	14,441	17.0	9,076	10.7	6,789	8.0
1999	7,983	9.7	6,492	7.9	13,376	16.2	8,413	10.2	6,457	7.8
2000	7,992	10.1	6,660	8.5	13,221	16.8	8,079	10.3	5,903	7.5
2001	8,081	9.5	7,265	8.6	12,034	14.2	7,512	8.9	5,851	6.9
2002	7,895	8.2	8,358	8.6	14,336	14.8	6,773	7.0	5,729	5.9
2003	8,309	8.3	9,231	9.2	16,091	16.0	6,679	6.6	5,295	5.3
2004	8,559	9.1	9,268	9.8	17,341	18.4	6,886	7.3	4,950	5.2
2005	8,899	9.9	8,929	10.0	17,728	19.8	7,443	8.3	4,829	5.4
2006	9,339	11.0	9,172	10.8	18,257	21.5	7,813	9.2	4,769	5.6
2007	9,149	11.7	9,287	11.9	18,394	23.6	8,062	10.3	5,059	6.5
2008	9,631	12.1	9,120	11.5	18,314	23.1	8,374	10.6	5,269	6.6
2009	9,893	12.4	9,424	11.8	17,941	22.5	8,741	11.0	5,354	6.7
2010	10,182	12.4	9,267	11.3	18,827	23.0	9,283	11.3	5,746	7.0

Notes
1. Figures for 2010 are provisional and are subject to change.
2. Percentages are based upon all students sitting A levels in further education college.

GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what number and proportion of pupils achieving five A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE achieved this by including an equivalent qualification in each year since 1997. [20225]

Mr Gibb: The number and percentage of pupils achieving five A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE by including an equivalent qualification is given below:

	Number of pupils achieving 5 A-C grades including English and mathematics by including an equivalent qualification*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades including English and mathematics by including an equivalent qualification*
1997	75	0.0

	Number of pupils achieving 5 A-C grades including English and mathematics by including an equivalent qualification*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades including English and mathematics by including an equivalent qualification*
1998	113	0.0
1999	304	0.1
2000	350	0.1
2001	596	0.1
2002	1,225	0.2
2003	2,221	0.4
2004	4,671	0.3
2005	2,466	0.4
2006	3,849	0.6
2007	6,662	1.0
2008	8,239	1.3
2009	12,170	1.9
2010[1]	22,726	3.5

[1] Provisional.

Notes

1. Figures counted as GCSEs from 1997 include GCSE short courses.
2. Figures counted as GCSEs from 2004 onwards include vocational GCSEs and GCSE double awards.
3. Figures from 1997 to 2004 relate to pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.
4. Figures from 2005 onwards are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
5. The English and mathematics components of the published measures relate to GCSEs only. Therefore the pupils in this answer will have passed an equivalent qualification to make up all or part of the other three GCSEs required.

Geography: Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority were entered for geography *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level in each of the last three years for which information is available. [22051]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Head Teachers: Powers

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what powers headteachers have to dismiss poorly performing teachers. [27037]

Mr Gibb: Governing bodies working alongside head teachers are required to establish procedures for dealing with lack of capability on the part of staff at the school and may dismiss staff, including teachers, whose performance is unacceptable.

The current statutory capability guidance overlaps with the mandatory arrangements for the performance management of teachers. We want to make it easier for schools to tackle poor performance. As "The Importance of Teaching—the Schools White Paper 2010" makes clear, we will achieve this by simplifying the current arrangements and removing duplication between the performance management and the capability procedures for managing poor performance. This will allow schools to deal more swiftly and effectively with under-performing teachers.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce the attainment gap between pupils from affluent and poor backgrounds in *(a)* South Thanet constituency and *(b)* England. [24596]

Mr Gibb: Reducing the attainment gap between pupils from affluent and poor backgrounds is at the heart of our policy for school improvement, in South Thanet as elsewhere.

We have made a clear commitment to narrowing attainment gaps between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers through our recently announced £7.2 billion fairness premium. The fairness premium includes a £2.5 billion pupil premium for schools which will target extra funding at the most disadvantaged pupils wherever they live, reducing educational inequalities and ensuring that poorer students receive the support they need to reach their potential.

On 3 November, we also announced a new £110 million education endowment fund which will fund new and innovative ways of raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in underperforming schools. Lessons learned about what works to raise the attainment of disadvantaged children will be made available to all schools on an ongoing basis, to help inform their pupil premium funding decisions.

Pupils: Hearing Impairment

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of teachers of the deaf in the south-west; and what assessment he has made of the merits of steps to improve specialist support services for deaf children. [17175]

Sarah Teather: We do not routinely collect data about the number of teachers of the deaf by region. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that teachers of the deaf possess the appropriate mandatory qualification to undertake the role and it is a matter for local authorities to ensure that they have enough qualified teachers to meet their statutory commitments.

The Government will be publishing a Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities, which will explore how we can improve support for all children with special educational needs and disabilities, including those with hearing impairments. It is a priority to improve the educational outcomes for all children and we recognise the important role specialists, such as teachers of the deaf, play in meeting this goal.

Schools: Admissions

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on social inclusion of school admissions policies. [22403]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any research looking at the effects of social inclusion on school admissions policy.

However, the Department did commission a research project in December 2009 to look at the effect of changes in secondary school admissions on the social composition of schools. This was published on 30 September 2010 and has been placed in the House Libraries.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the role of *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local government in the reduction of exclusions from school of children with (i) special educational needs and (ii) autism. [25763]

Mr Gibb: The Government are clear that schools should, wherever possible, avoid excluding permanently any pupil with a statement of special educational needs (SEN). Where SEN, including autism, contribute to behavioural difficulties, those needs should be addressed, wherever possible, before problems arise.

The decision to exclude is one for head teachers to make and head teachers should not be prevented from excluding a child with SEN where that is the necessary and appropriate course of action. In making these difficult decisions, children with SEN should be treated sensitively by schools and the judgment of professionals should be trusted in this matter.

We are also considering options for changing the arrangements for reviewing permanent exclusions and will announce our decisions in due course.

Exclusion from school does not mean exclusion from education and local authorities have the duty to provide suitable full-time alternative education for any permanently excluded pupil of compulsory school age from the sixth day of the exclusion. The Government are currently developing policies to improve the environment in which excluded pupils are educated and to ensure that those organisations with a proven track record in turning young lives round are given the opportunity to expand their provision.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with what frequency payments to students from the discretionary learner support fund will be made in the academic year 2011-12. [26973]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: Decisions regarding the new discretionary fund will be made locally, enabling schools, colleges and training providers to target support at those young people in greatest need. They will have the freedom to determine how frequently payments are made, and for what purpose.

In finalising the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support fund, the Department will consult with schools, colleges and training organisations, including on what guidance is required to administer the fund effectively.

Teachers: Qualifications

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of unqualified staff teaching lessons in schools in each local education authority area; what assessment he has made of effects of the number of unqualified staff on levels of unemployment among newly-qualified teachers; and if he will make a statement. [23036]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following table.

With the exception of some overseas-trained teachers, maintained schools may only employ unqualified teachers as long as no suitable qualified or trainee teacher is available to fill the post. This allows maintained schools to cover exceptional temporary shortages, while ensuring that the employment of unqualified teachers does not affect the employment prospects of qualified teachers.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasionals) in local authority maintained schools by phase, local authorities and Government office regions, January 2010, England

	Nursery and primary			Secondary		
	Qualified	Unqualified	Total	Qualified	Unqualified	Total
England	197,000	3,860	200,860	201,240	9,020	210,260
Gateshead	760		770	830	10	840
Newcastle upon Tyne	950	10	960	990	20	1,010
North Tyneside	630	10	640	910	10	920
South Tyneside	530		530	670	10	680
Sunderland	1,260	10	1,280	1,100	40	1,140
Hartlepool	410		410	410	20	430
Middlesbrough	660		660	380		380
Redcar and Cleveland	560	20	570	640	30	660
Stockton on Tees	780	10	790	770	20	790
Durham	1,910	10	1,920	2,020	70	2,090
Darlington	400		410	350	10	360
Northumberland	880	10	890	1,590	30	1,610
North-east	9,730	90	9,810	10,640	280	10,920
Cumbria	1,930	20	1,950	2,020	30	2,060
Cheshire East	1,280	10	1,280	1,460	10	1,470
Cheshire West and Chester	1,200	10	1,210	1,320	20	1,340
Halton	510		510	510	10	520
Warrington	840	10	850	930	20	950
Bolton	1,100	10	1,110	1,120	40	1,170
Bury	750	10	760	720	10	730
Manchester	1,920	50	1,970	1,380	70	1,450
Oldham	1,040	20	1,060	1,100	30	1,140

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasionals) in local authority[1] maintained schools by phase, local authorities and Government office regions, January 2010, England

	Nursery and primary			*Secondary*		
	Qualified	*Unqualified[2]*	*Total*	*Qualified*	*Unqualified[2]*	*Total*
Rochdale	910	10	920	840	50	890
Salford	890	20	900	680	30	710
Stockport	1,090	10	1,100	930	10	930
Tameside	910	10	920	800	20	820
Trafford	840	10	840	990	20	1,010
Wigan	1,200	10	1,200	1,340	10	1,350
Lancashire	4,510	30	4,530	4,590	80	4,670
Blackburn with Darwen	710		720	600	20	620
Blackpool	590	10	590	530	10	530
Knowsley	670		680	570	20	590
Liverpool	1,800	10	1,810	1,970	30	2,000
St Helens	670		680	730		730
Sefton	1,030	10	1,040	1,300	30	1,320
Wirral	1,180	10	1,190	1,610	30	1,640
North-west	27,560	260	27,820	28,050	610	28,650
Kingston upon Hull, City of	1,010	40	1,050	770	100	870
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,200	10	1,210	1,410	60	1,470
North East Lincolnshire	600		600	420	20	440
North Lincolnshire	600	10	610	570	30	600
North Yorkshire	2,140	30	2,170	2,570	70	2,650
York	580	10	590	700	20	720
Barnsley	830	10	830	770	20	800
Doncaster	1,200	20	1,220	1,170	60	1,230
Rotherham	1,090	10	1,100	1,340	30	1,370
Sheffield	1,900	40	1,940	1,760	100	1,860
Bradford	2,520	20	2,540	2,020	70	2,090
Calderdale	750	100	850	720	230	940
Kirklees	1,730	20	1,750	1,700	40	1,740
Leeds	2,860	20	2,890	2,830	30	2,860
Wakefield	1,230	20	1,250	1,250	50	1,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	20,250	340	20,590	19,990	940	20,930
Derbyshire	2,760	20	2,790	3,120	80	3,210
Derby	970	20	990	980	30	1,010
Leicestershire	2,300	40	2,340	2,740	130	2,870
Leicester	1,360	20	1,380	1,180	70	1,240
Rutland	120		130	140		140
Lincolnshire	2,410	70	2,470	2,940	220	3,160
Northamptonshire	2,740	40	2,780	2,580	120	2,700
Nottinghamshire	2,790	60	2,840	3,200	150	3,360
Nottingham	1,070	10	1,090	650	40	700
East midlands	16,530	270	16,800	17,530	840	18,370
Herefordshire	640		640	650	20	660
Worcestershire	1,940	10	1,950	2,400	70	2,460
Shropshire	920	10	930	1,080	40	1,120
Telford and Wrekin	620	10	630	580	20	600
Staffordshire	2,910	60	2,970	3,730	150	3,880
Stoke on Trent	890	20	920	890	40	920
Warwickshire	1,880	20	1,900	2,120	90	2,210
Birmingham	5,420	120	5,540	4,500	460	4,960
Coventry	1,300	10	1,310	1,330	90	1,420
Dudley	1,320	10	1,330	1,310	30	1,340
Sandwell	1,350	10	1,350	1,040	10	1,050
Solihull	900	10	910	860	30	900
Walsall	1,190	10	1,200	1,150	50	1,210
Wolverhampton	1,080	10	1,090	1,070	60	1,120
West midlands	22,350	310	22,670	22,720	1,150	23,870
Cambridgeshire	2,170	30	2,200	2,050	140	2,190

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasionals) in local authority[1] maintained schools by phase, local authorities and Government office regions, January 2010, England

	Nursery and primary			Secondary		
	Qualified	*Unqualified*[2]	*Total*	*Qualified*	*Unqualified*[2]	*Total*
Peterborough	760	20	770	570	40	610
Norfolk	2,870	80	2,950	2,960	220	3,180
Suffolk	2,220	10	2,230	3,280	120	3,390
Bedford Borough	480	10	490	940	50	1,000
Central Bedfordshire	900	30	930	1,450	50	1,500
Luton	930	30	960	660	50	720
Essex	4,940	90	5,030	5,160	330	5,500
Southend on Sea	650	50	700	820	140	960
Thurrock	620	30	650	380	50	430
Hertfordshire	4,550	100	4,650	5,260	280	5,540
East of England	21,080	470	21,560	23,540	1,470	25,010
London	30,370	1,460	31,830	27,630	1,720	29,350
Camden	570	40	610	750	20	770
City of London	10		20			
Hackney	940	50	990	450	20	470
Hammersmith and Fulham	460	30	490	340	30	370
Haringey	1,000	40	1,040	830	60	900
Islington	740	50	790	490	20	510
Kensington and Chelsea	380	50	430	230	20	260
Lambeth	1,140	50	1,200	660	30	690
Lewisham	930	20	950	740	60	800
Newham	1,560	60	1,620	1,280	50	1,330
Southwark	1,100	100	1,210	390	40	430
Tower Hamlets	1,220	100	1,320	1,130	70	1,200
Wandsworth	970	50	1,020	740	50	790
Westminster	600	50	640	420	30	450
Inner London	11,630	690	12,320	8,440	520	8,960
Barking and Dagenham	840	40	880	870	70	930
Barnet	1,300	120	1,430	1,380	170	1,550
Bexley	850		860	1,050	30	1,080
Brent	1,060	40	1,110	1,040	90	1,120
Bromley	1,100	20	1,120	1,440	110	1,550
Croydon	1,360	50	1,400	1,010	70	1,080
Ealing	1,210	60	1,270	1,100	50	1,150
Enfield	1,400	60	1,460	1,380	60	1,440
Greenwich	1,060	20	1,080	970	70	1,040
Harrow	930	60	980	720	40	760
Havering	880	20	900	1,050	100	1,140
Hillingdon	1,180	30	1,210	1,130	70	1,190
Hounslow	900	20	920	1,130	40	1,180
Kingston upon Thames	580	20	600	650	30	680
Merton	670	40	710	400	10	410
Redbridge	1,100	70	1,170	1,390	100	1,490
Richmond upon Thames	630	10	650	450	20	470
Sutton	690	20	710	1,110	30	1,150
Waltham Forest	990	50	1,040	920	50	960
Outer London	18,750	770	19,510	19,190	1,200	20,390
Bracknell Forest	420	10	420	400	20	420
Windsor and Maidenhead	430	10	440	650	50	700
West Berkshire	650	10	660	830	50	880
Reading	530	10	540	380	20	390
Slough	580	30	620	620	50	670
Wokingham	610	10	620	730	20	740
Buckinghamshire	2,020	30	2,050	2,050	100	2,150
Milton Keynes	1,090	30	1,120	990	70	1,060
East Sussex	1,630	40	1,670	1,660	80	1,740
Brighton and Hove	800	10	810	790	20	820

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasionals) in local authority[1] maintained schools by phase, local authorities and Government office regions, January 2010, England

	Nursery and primary			Secondary		
	Qualified	*Unqualified[2]*	*Total*	*Qualified*	*Unqualified[2]*	*Total*
Hampshire	4,750	20	4,770	4,500	50	4,550
Portsmouth	680		690	540	40	580
Southampton	810		810	600	20	620
Isle of Wight	310	10	330	710	40	750
Kent	5,530	90	5,620	5,790	470	6,260
Medway	1,110	20	1,130	1,170	90	1,260
Oxfordshire	2,320	40	2,360	2,250	110	2,360
Surrey	3,750	40	3,780	3,680	140	3,820
West Sussex	2,810	40	2,850	2,570	50	2,630
South-east	30,840	450	31,290	30,910	1,400	32,400
Isles of Scilly	30		30			
Bath and North East Somerset	600		600	730	10	740
City of Bristol	1,500	20	1,520	830	50	880
North Somerset	710		720	830	10	840
South Gloucestershire	1,000		1,000	1,020	10	1,030
Cornwall	1,870	60	1,930	2,080	110	2,190
Devon	2,590	10	2,600	2,690	50	2,740
Plymouth	870	10	880	1,050	40	1,090
Torbay	430	10	440	550	10	560
Dorset	1,240	10	1,250	1,910	40	1,950
Poole	490		490	570	10	580
Bournemouth	460	10	470	600	40	640
Gloucestershire	2,140	20	2,150	2,750	40	2,790
Somerset	1,770	20	1,790	1,960	50	2,010
Wiltshire	1,730	30	1,770	1,970	30	2,000
Swindon	850	10	860	670	40	710
South-west	18,290	200	18,490	20,230	530	20,760

	Special and non-school education			Total		
	Qualified	*Unqualified[2]*	*Total*	*Qualified*	*Unqualified[2]*	*Total*
England	20,120	1,470	21,590	418,360	14,360	432,720
Gateshead	100		100	1,690	10	1,710
Newcastle upon Tyne	130	10	130	2,070	40	2,100
North Tyneside	90		90	1,630	20	1,650
South Tyneside	70		70	1,270	10	1,280
Sunderland	110		110	2,470	60	2,530
Hartlepool	30	10	40	850	30	890
Middlesbrough	70	10	70	1,110	10	1,120
Redcar and Cleveland	50		50	1,240	50	1,290
Stockton on Tees	70		70	1,610	30	1,640
Durham	190	10	200	4,120	80	4,200
Darlington	40	10	50	790	20	820
Northumberland	80	10	90	2,550	40	2,590
North-east	1,030	50	1,080	21,400	420	21,820
Cumbria	200		200	4,150	60	4,210
Cheshire East	50		50	2,790	20	2,800
Cheshire West and Chester	130		130	2,650	30	2,680
Halton	50		50	1,070	10	1,080
Warrington	60		60	1,830	30	1,860
Bolton	110		110	2,330	60	2,390
Bury	70	10	80	1,540	30	1,570
Manchester	220		220	3,520	120	3,640
Oldham	60		70	2,210	60	2,270
Rochdale	110	10	120	1,860	70	1,930
Salford	150	10	150	1,710	50	1,760
Stockport	120		120	2,140	10	2,150
Tameside	100		100	1,810	30	1,840
Trafford	100	10	100	1,920	30	1,960

	Special and non-school education			Total		
	Qualified	Unqualified	Total	Qualified	Unqualified	Total
Wigan	220		220	2,750	20	2,770
Lancashire	490	10	500	9,590	110	9,700
Blackburn with Darwen	110		120	1,430	30	1,460
Blackpool	50		50	1,170	10	1,180
Knowsley	120	10	130	1,360	40	1,400
Liverpool	200		200	3,970	50	4,010
St Helens	110		110	1,510	10	1,520
Sefton	90	10	110	2,420	50	2,470
Wirral	150	10	150	2,940	40	2,980
North-west	3,040	100	3,150	58,650	970	59,620
Kingston upon Hull, City of	110	10	110	1,890	140	2,030
East Riding of Yorkshire	110		120	2,730	60	2,790
North East Lincolnshire	40		40	1,060	20	1,080
North Lincolnshire	40		40	1,210	40	1,260
North Yorkshire	170		180	4,880	100	4,990
York	50		50	1,330	20	1,360
Barnsley	50		50	1,660	30	1,680
Doncaster	130	10	140	2,490	80	2,580
Rotherham	130	10	140	2,560	50	2,610
Sheffield	300		300	3,960	150	4,100
Bradford	190	10	190	4,720	100	4,820
Calderdale	40		40	1,500	330	1,840
Kirklees	130		140	3,570	60	3,630
Leeds	150		150	5,840	60	5,900
Wakefield	110		120	2,590	70	2,670
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,770	50	1,820	42,000	1,330	43,330
Derbyshire	180	10	190	6,060	120	6,180
Derby	80		80	2,030	50	2,080
Leicestershire	180	40	210	5,220	210	5,420
Leicester	150		160	2,690	90	2,780
Rutland				260		270
Lincolnshire	420	40	460	5,770	320	6,090
Northamptonshire	230	30	270	5,560	180	5,740
Nottinghamshire	270	10	280	6,260	220	6,480
Nottingham	140		140	1,860	60	1,920
East midlands	1,650	130	1,780	35,710	1,250	36,960
Herefordshire	60		70	1,350	20	1,370
Worcestershire	210	10	220	4,540	90	4,630
Shropshire	100	20	120	2,100	70	2,170
Telford and Wrekin	100		100	1,300	30	1,330
Staffordshire	350	90	430	6,990	290	7,280
Stoke on Trent	100		110	1,880	60	1,950
Warwickshire	240	40	280	4,250	160	4,400
Birmingham	730	50	780	10,650	630	11,280
Coventry	310	10	320	2,940	110	3,050
Dudley	130	20	150	2,760	60	2,820
Sandwell	110		110	2,490	20	2,510
Solihull	140		150	1,900	50	1,950
Walsall	110		120	2,460	70	2,530
Wolverhampton	140		140	2,280	70	2,350
West midlands	2,830	260	3,090	47,910	1,720	49,620
Cambridgeshire	250	50	300	4,470	210	4,690
Peterborough	70	10	80	1,400	60	1,460
Norfolk	290	20	300	6,120	320	6,440
Suffolk	210	10	220	5,700	150	5,850
Bedford Borough	100		110	1,530	70	1,600
Central Bedfordshire	360	10	370	2,710	90	2,800
Luton	40		50	1,630	90	1,720
Essex	300	40	330	10,400	460	10,860

	Special and non-school education			*Total*		
	Qualified	*UnqualifiedF*	*Total*	*Qualified*	*UnqualifiedF*	*Total*
Southend on Sea	70	20	90	1,540	200	1,740
Thurrock	50	—	50	1,050	80	1,120
Hertfordshire	540	30	570	10,360	400	10,760
East of England	2,290	180	2,460	46,910	2,120	49,030
London	2,600	300	2,890	60,600	3,480	64,080
Camden	70	10	80	1,390	80	1,470
City of London				10		20
Hackney	50	—	50	1,430	80	1,510
Hammersmith and Fulham	90	10	100	890	60	950
Haringey	80	—	90	1,910	110	2,020
Islington	80	10	80	1,300	70	1,380
Kensington and Chelsea	30	—	30	640	70	720
Lambeth	90	10	110	1,900	100	2,000
Lewisham	110	—	110	1,790	70	1,860
Newham	30	—	30	2,870	120	2,990
Southwark	90	20	110	1,580	170	1,740
Tower Hamlets	120	20	140	2,470	190	2,650
Wandsworth	140	30	170	1,850	140	1,990
Westminster	20	—	30	1,030	80	1,120
Inner London	1,000	120	1,120	21,060	1,340	22,400
Barking and Dagenham	40	10	50	1,750	120	1,870
Barnet	90	10	110	2,780	310	3,090
Bexley	130	10	130	2,030	40	2,070
Brent	60	10	70	2,170	140	2,300
Bromley	90	—	100	2,630	140	2,770
Croydon	180	20	200	2,550	140	2,690
Ealing	110	10	120	2,420	120	2,530
Enfield	120	10	130	2,890	140	3,030
Greenwich	100	20	120	2,140	110	2,250
Harrow	60	20	70	1,700	120	1,820
Havering	40	—	50	1,970	120	2,100
Hillingdon	100	—	110	2,410	100	2,520
Hounslow	110	—	110	2,150	60	2,210
Kingston upon Thames	30	10	40	1,260	60	1,320
Merton	30	—	30	1,110	50	1,150
Redbridge	120	30	150	2,610	200	2,810
Richmond upon Thames	40	10	50	1,130	40	1,160
Sutton	50	10	60	1,860	60	1,920
Waltham Forest	70	—	80	1,980	100	2,080
Outer London	1,600	170	1,770	39,540	2,140	41,680
Bracknell Forest	30	—	30	850	30	880
Windsor and Maidenhead	40	—	40	1,420	60	1,180
West Berkshire	50	—	50	1,530	60	1,590
Reading	40	—	40	940	30	970
Slough	50	20	80	1,250	110	1,360
Wokingham	50	—	60	1,390	30	1,420
Buckinghamshire	210	10	220	4,280	150	4,420
Milton Keynes	110	10	120	2,190	100	2,290
East Sussex	160	30	190	3,460	150	3,600
Brighton and Hove	190	10	200	1,780	40	1,820
Hampshire	360	—	360	9,620	70	9,690
Portsmouth	90	10	100	1,320	50	1,370
Southampton	70	—	70	1,480	20	1,500
Isle of Wight	50	10	50	1,070	60	1,130
Kent	640	70	710	11,960	640	12,600
Medway	110	20	130	2,390	120	2,510
Oxfordshire	270	60	330	4,830	220	5,050
Surrey	410	10	420	7,840	190	8,030
West Sussex	350	—	350	5,730	90	5,830

	Special and non-school education			*Total*		
	Qualified	*Unqualified*[2]	*Total*	*Qualified*	*Unqualified*[2]	*Total*
South-east	3,270	280	3,550	65,030	2,210	67,230
Isles of Scilly				30		30
Bath and North East Somerset	70		70	1,400	10	1,410
City of Bristol	140	60	200	2,470	130	2,600
North Somerset	80		80	1,620	20	1,640
South Gloucestershire	80		80	2,090	20	2,110
Cornwall	120		130	4,070	170	4,240
Devon	160		170	5,450	60	5,510
Plymouth	110		110	2,030	40	2,070
Torbay	80	10	80	1,060	20	1,080
Dorset	70	30	90	3,220	70	3,300
Poole	40		50	1,100	10	1,120
Bournemouth	40		40	1,110	50	1,150
Gloucestershire	210	10	220	5,090	60	5,160
Somerset	200		200	3,930	70	4,010
Wiltshire	150		150	3,860	60	3,920
Swindon	90	10	90	1,610	50	1,660
South-west	1,640	120	1,760	40,150	860	41,020

= Negligible.

[1] Maintained sector only. Teachers in academies (including those that were previously maintained schools) are not included

[2] Includes instructors, overseas trained teachers and teachers on employment-based routes to qualified teacher status (Graduate Teacher programme, the Registered Teachers programme, the Overseas Trained Teachers programme and the Teach First scheme)

Note:

Totals may not appear equal to the sum of the component parts because of rounding.

Source:

618g survey and School Workforce Census.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 3 December 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Animal Experiments

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to contribute to the Government's objective to reduce the use of animals in laboratory experiments. [28215]

Mr Willetts: The Home Office is responsible for regulating the use of animals in scientific research and testing, and is leading the development of a strategy to deliver the Government's objective to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. I and other ministerial colleagues with an interest in research using animals, will be meeting in the near future to discuss how to take the strategy forward.

The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) supports and promotes the 3Rs in research and testing. The NC3Rs receives around £5.1 million funding for 2010-11 from this Department, through the Medical Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Apprentices

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether those over the age of 24 years taking a level three apprenticeship will be expected to pay fees in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [28652]

Mr Hayes: "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" (16 November 2010) sets out our funding strategy for post 19 Further Education (FE) and Skills for the spending review.

For the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years, Government will continue to share the costs of Level 3 Apprenticeships for learners aged 24 and above with employers. From the 2013/14 academic year, Government will no longer co-fund Level 3 and higher Apprenticeships for those aged 24 and above. In this instance, where learners are expected to contribute towards the costs, they will have access to Government backed fee loans to defer the costs of training. Learners and employers will need to agree between themselves how best to share the costs and what proportion of the fees each will pay.

Over the next few months we will engage with colleges, training organisations and others on the details of how fee loans will be implemented to ensure the approach to fee loans recognises the characteristics of different types of learners and identifies the particular delivery arrangements appropriate for the FE and Skills sector.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was allocated to the *(a)* tourism and *(b)* creative industries under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme in each year since the scheme's inception. [27925]

Mr Prisk: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is a loan guarantee to encourage additional bank lending to viable SMEs that lack collateral to secure a normal commercial loan. As such, the Department does not allocate funds to particular sectors or businesses. But rather it is for the accredited lender to make commercial lending decisions to individual SMEs seeking finance on a case-by-case basis. The Department plays no role in the application or decision-making process.

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC code) for each business offered and/or drawing down a loan backed by EFG is recorded. Whilst businesses in these sectors comprise elements of several SIC codes we are able to give the following estimate of lending to businesses under EFG since its launch in January 2009 to date.

As of 2 December, over 760 businesses in the tourism sector have been offered loans with a value of almost £68 million. Of which, nearly 640 businesses have drawn down loans totalling over £56 million. As for the creative industries sector, over 670 businesses have been offered loans with a value of over £76 million. Of which, over 600 businesses have drawn down loans totalling over £66 million.

In addition, the Government acknowledge that creative industries sector businesses—particularly those relying on intangible assets—may suffer particular difficulties in accessing the finance that they need. For this reason, in "Financing Growth: The Government's response to financing a private sector recovery", published on 1 November, the Government announced that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will work together to understand whether creative businesses are experiencing greater difficulties than others in accessing financing. This review will be carried out to a Budget 2011 timetable.

Higher Education: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people in *(a)* Bristol East constituency and *(b)* Bristol applied to enter university in each of the last 10 years. [27940]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS):

Applicants aged 20 and under to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS from Bristol East constituency and Bristol 2001 to 2010[1]

	Bristol East constituency	*Bristol*
2001	284	1,535
2002	296	1,536
2003	310	1,599
2004	294	1,579
2005	374	1,822

Applicants aged 20 and under to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS from Bristol East constituency and Bristol 2001 to 2010[1]

	Bristol East constituency	*Bristol*
2006	296	1,571
2007	347	1,654
2008	330	1,791
2009	409	1,977
2010[1]	377	2,045

[1] The 2010 data presented are for the provisional end of year 2010 captured on 13 October 2010. Final end of year data will be available from 20 January 2011. Provisional data usually represents around 99% of total applicants.

Notes:

1. Bristol constituencies have been identified using the home postcode regardless of declared area of permanent residence; constituencies based on 2010 boundaries
2. For the 2004 cycle applications formerly handled by the Social Work Admissions Service (SWAS) merged into the main UCAS system.
3. For the 2008 cycle applications formerly handled by the Nursing and Midwifery Admissions Service (NMAS) merged into the main UCAS system.
4. For the 2010 cycle applications formerly handled by the Centralised Applications to Nurse Training Clearing House (CATCH) merged into UCAS.

Source:

UCAS

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to continue to allocate funding to higher education institutions in London to take account of additional costs in London in the spending review period. [26192]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 24 November 2010]:* This will be a matter for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to determine within annual budgets set by the Department. It is normal practice for the council to consult with the higher education sector on any changes to the funding formula.

As part of the new student finance package for 2012/13, there will be increases in loans for living costs, which will mean that overall, most new students, including those studying in London, should have more support for living costs than they do under current support arrangements. Students living away from home and studying in London will be eligible for a higher rate of loan for living costs; details of the London rate of loan will be made available in due course.

Innovation: EU Action

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to respond to the EU Commission document, A Rationale for Action, SEC (2010) 1161 final. [28681]

Mr Willetts: The Government responded to the European Commission's Innovation Union Communication (COM(2010) 546) and underpinning staff working document A Rationale for Action (SEC (2010) 1161 final) in an Explanatory Memorandum (EM) 14035/10 dated 25 October 2010. The Government broadly welcomed the scope, analysis and level of ambition within Innovation Union, which underpins the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs. The Government actively negotiated the drafting of Council Conclusions in response to the Innovation Union strategy, which were formally adopted at the EU Competitiveness Council meeting on 26 November.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings he has had with representatives of new local enterprise partnerships. [28233]

Mr Prisk: On 28 October we announced that 24 of the outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships received met the Government's expectations. These partnerships have been asked to start developing their governance structures.

Other partnerships continue to develop their proposals so they can be in a similar position. We will continue to engage with both groups of partnerships at a speed that is appropriate for them.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Nottinghamshire

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the establishment of a local enterprise partnership for Nottinghamshire. [28422]

Mr Prisk: The Government have received a proposal for a partnership that covers Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire. The proposal meets the Government's expectations regarding support from business, geography, local authority support, ambition and added value. The partnership has therefore been invited to put its governance structures in place.

Manufacturing Advisory Service

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* funding and *(b)* non-financial resources his Department plans to provide for the Manufacturing Advisory Service in the next 12 months. [28579]

Mr Prisk: The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) has proved to be highly effective in assisting SMEs to improve their productivity and competitiveness in an ever increasingly challenging environment. We have made a commitment to continue the provision of MAS following the disbanding of RDAs. We are currently in contact with stakeholders and practitioners as to how the service can best be focused and delivered up to and beyond April 2012. However, no conclusion has been reached yet on what resources and finance will be needed over the next 12 months.

Manufacturing Advisory Service: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with Yorkshire Forward on funding for Yorkshire and Humber Manufacturing Advisory Service. [28580]

Mr Prisk: The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) has proved to be highly effective in assisting SMEs to improve their productivity and competitiveness in an ever increasingly challenging environment. We have made a commitment to continue the provision of MAS following the disbanding of RDAs. It is our intention that from April 2012 MAS will be managed at a national level but will be delivered locally to ensure it continues to address the needs of individual companies. We are currently in contact with stakeholders and practitioners as to how the service can best be focused and delivered up to and beyond April 2012.

Natural Environment Research Council

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what mechanism the value for money of expenditure by the Natural Environment Research Council is assessed. [28129]

Mr Willetts: The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) uses two mechanisms to ensure the value for money of its expenditure.

Firstly, NERC adopts standard HM Treasury guidance on its decisions regarding major equipment purchases, conducting a rigorous business case process that accommodates investment appraisal evidence. NERC ensures the level of delegated authority afforded to individual budget holders and the sub-committees they manage is appropriate to their level of experience and training. For example, approximately £100 million of NERC's expenditure is awarded as research grants, each of which are subject to a rigorous and independent process that assesses value for money before authorisation. All of these internal mechanisms are then supported by NERC's involvement with the Research Councils' Shared Service Centre whose strategic and operational procurement functions ensure NERC's expenditure is spent with the most competitively priced suppliers who have met their assessment of quality goods or service.

Secondly, NERC contributes to Research Council targets for value for money savings, administrative efficiency and asset disposals. The original targets were set out in the NERC allocation of the science budget for 2008-09 to 2010-11 (dated October 2007) and have since been increased as part of the April 2009 Budget. The specific level of the NERC contribution to these targets is agreed collectively by Research Councils through the Value for Money Efficiency Delivery Project Board. This board reports quarterly to my Department, recording savings achieved and forecasting savings for the remainder of the spending review period. These savings are subject to independent audit by the Research Councils' Internal Audit Service.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Natural Environment Research Council has taken to engage with private sector marine science providers. [28130]

Mr Willetts: The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), via its Research Centres and Surveys, its science programmes and knowledge exchange activities, engages directly and frequently with private sector marine science providers and their representative trade bodies, through a range of formal and informal mechanisms and interactions. Collectively these strategic partnerships inform the development of NERC strategy for its science programmes, knowledge exchange activities and the delivery of national capability and infrastructure. Such engagement enables the exploitation of NERC funded science in support of new business developments in the marine and maritime sector and contributes knowledge to inform the sustainable development of the wider industrial community.

NERC has recently engaged with private marine science providers during its Ship Management Review which it completed in February 2009. NERC met ship owners in the UK, Ireland and Germany and three private sector ship operating companies. The review demonstrated that NERC manages its ship operations to a level of efficiency and effectiveness that matches industry standards. NERC continues to monitor its performance against that of commercial operators of Government research ships. In addition, since 1987 NERC has been a member of the International Research Ship Operators' Meeting which shares best practice in Government research ship operations. The group now consists of 19 countries.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what cost savings have been made by the *(a)* Natural Environment Research Council and *(b)* National Oceanography Centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [28131]

Mr Willetts: As part of the research councils' central targets for value for money savings and administrative efficiency, the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has reported the following savings to this Department:

	£ million
2008/09	23.3
2009/10	38.5

The figures given are for NERC as a whole, including the National Oceanography Centre cost centre, for which a detailed breakdown is not available.

The categories of savings included are: reducing the proportion of expenditure attributable to administration costs; increasing efficiency; demonstrating effective reprioritisation of programme spend; growing level of co-funding of research; and controlling the costs of research.

Regional Growth Fund

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* process and *(b)* timetable is for bids to the regional growth fund; and who is entitled to make such bids. [28425]

Mr Prisk: The process for bidders wishing to apply for funds should be by completing the RGF application form, which can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/regional-growth-fund

This webpage also contains advice and guidance on completing the form.

The first bidding round is now open and will close on 21 January 2011. There will be further bidding rounds, the dates of these rounds will be published on the above webpage.

The fund's objectives and criteria are designed to be broad, which will allow bids from all sectors and communities. Bids for funding must be from either the private sector or private public partnerships from across England, and be at or above the fund's minimum threshold of £1 million.

Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms his Department has in place to support social enterprises and community interest companies. [27644]

Mr Prisk: I recognise the important role that the social enterprise sector can play in supporting future growth *in the economy*.

The Department is working closely with the Cabinet Office, who have lead policy responsibility for social enterprise, to ensure that the coalition Government policy increases the impact of social enterprises and their contribution to a strengthened civil society. This Department's approach is to ensure that all our work that impacts on SMEs takes proper account of the social enterprise dimension.

The Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies (CICs) provides guidance and assistance about matters relating to CICs. This includes the provision of guidance leaflets, forms, templates of memorandums and articles of association, and awareness raising activities.

This Department is currently examining the information made available on Businesslink.gov.uk to ensure that all businesses and other organisations are able to make appropriate choices about the legal forms and ownership structures that best suit their operations.

Students: Finance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 599W, on further education: transport, what student financial support will be in place in academic year 2011-12; and what changes he plans to make to arrangements for student financial support in the academic year 2012-13. [28654]

Mr Hayes: As outlined in the strategy document 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', published on 16 November 2010, the current arrangements for learner support will start to change from the 2011/12 academic year. An enhanced discretionary learner support fund will be created within the next two years. By arrangements we assume that the question refers to the allocation methodology that the Skills Funding Agency will adopt to distribute the discretionary funding to qualifying providers in 2012/13. Decisions on this allocation method have not yet been finalised but the agency will work closely with the sector on the impact of any changes to ensure funds are targeted on helping those learners facing financial difficulties.

UK Trade and Investment

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to privatise the Overseas Market Introduction Service within UK Trade and Investment. [28508]

Mr Prisk: UKTI keeps all of its services to business under constant review. I have no current plans to privatise the Overseas Market Introduction Service.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Departments: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 432W, on Government departments: procurement, in respect of what research small and medium-sized enterprises cited excessive bureaucracy as an obstacle. [28679]

Mr Maude: Through Government's regular conversations with industry and SME representative groups and from the stream of correspondence received by Ministers from SMEs on a daily basis, Ministers are aware that excessive bureaucracy is a concern for small businesses.

As part of the Government's commitment to make it easier for SMEs to do business with Government, a new online feedback facility has been launched on the No. 10 website. From this feedback we will be able to take further action.

Government Departments: Travel

Paul Maynard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to bring forward measures to reduce the annual cost of grey fleet expenditure to Government Departments; and if he will make a statement. [27588]

Mr Maude: 'Grey fleet' refers to business miles driven by employees in their own vehicles, and claimed back at a fixed mileage rate. There are clear opportunities to reduce spend in this area.

The Centralised Procurement Capability being developed by the Efficiency and Reform Group, will transform how Government buys common goods and services through centralised category management.

Existing effective practice in reducing grey fleet expenditure will be developed as a key element of the travel category, where work is under way to develop a single supply strategy which will deliver significant, sustainable cost reductions through aggregation, standardisation and rationalisation.

Timber

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department, its agencies and its non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* the Prime Minister's office and *(c)* the Deputy Prime Minister's Office with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27837]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office form an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office, including its agencies and non-departmental public bodies, follows the specifications set out in the UK Government's Timber Procurement Policy when purchasing timber. This policy requires that all timber and wood-derived products procured by central Government Departments must be exclusively from independently verifiable legal and sustainable sources or FLEGT (Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade) licensed timber or equivalent. Such procurements are carried out either by the Department's total facilities manager providers or via a framework contract.

The policy's definition of sustainability is based on internationally agreed criteria for sustainable forest management. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) have not set criteria for sourcing sustainable timber as such, but refer to the same internationally agreed criteria. Therefore, the Department's compliance with any criteria to which the UN FAO would refer to is ensured.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Termination of Employment

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what settlement package has been offered to the Director of Communications at the Audit Commission upon termination of his contract; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing such a package. [28407]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 3 December 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission's former Managing Director for Communications and Public Reporting left his post on the grounds of redundancy. He received a redundancy payment of £10,178.54 gross, as provided for in his contract of employment. This entitled him to two weeks pay for each year of service and his service was two years. He was also given eight weeks payment in lieu of notice of £20,357.08 gross. There were no other costs to the public purse.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken since his appointment to reduce expenditure on conferences from budgets within his responsibility. [28350]

Robert Neill: The Department has sought to significantly reduce spending on conferences, exhibitions and similar activities since May.

Such expenditure is covered by the freeze on non-essential marketing and advertising activity, and any such activities have been considered against the criteria for essential activity laid down by the Cabinet Office. A number of potential conferences across the DCLG group have not proceeded as a result, and where exemptions have been granted my officials have been instructed to reduce costs to the minimum possible, bringing activity in-house and using public facilities where feasible.

Departmental Food

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has guidelines on ensuring that food used for his Department's official functions is of domestic origin. [25547]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not directly procure food for official functions in its HQ, Eland House. Catering services are provided as part of the Total Facilities Management contract for Eland House delivered by MITIE plc.

The Department works with suppliers, actively promoting DEFRA guidelines that food procured meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

Fire Services

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Fire Brigades Union on the likely effect on fire services of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [28329]

Robert Neill: I, and officials from my Department, have had a number of discussions with the Fire Brigades Union over a range of matters, including the possible implications of the spending review.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on fire service pensions of the implementation of the proposed change in the measurement of inflation used to up-rate pensions from the retail price index to the consumer price index. [28532]

Robert Neill: No special assessment has been made of the effect on pensions paid to members of the firefighters' pension schemes. Pensions will continue to be protected against price increases and uprated in line with state second pensions.

Fire Services: Termination of Employment

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire fighters were *(a)* dismissed from service, *(b)* re-deployed to an alternative position and *(c)* retired with an ill-health or injury pension owing to a career-threatening illness in (i) Redcar constituency and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [28038]

Robert Neill: Data held centrally are for Fire and Rescue Authorities. The numbers of fire fighters who were *(a)* dismissed from service, and who *(c)* retired due to ill-health are shown in the table.

No data are held centrally on numbers of firefighters who have been *(b)* redeployed to an alternative position.

Numbers of fighters who were dismissed from service, and ill-health retirements, in Cleveland and England 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Cleveland		England	
	Dismissal on disciplinary grounds/ poor performance	Ill-health retirements	Dismissal on disciplinary grounds/ poor performance	Ill-health retirements
2005-06	0	2	68	287
2006-07	0	1	94	117
2007-08	1	n/a	96	48
2008-09	0	0	94	23
2009-10	0	1	93	34

Source:
Annual Returns to DCLG

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the comprehensive spending review on his Department's budget for flood resilience measures; and if he will make a statement. [26627][1]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold a budget for food resilience measures because this is a policy responsibility of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. DCLG has made no assessment of the effects of the comprehensive spending review on food resilience measures.

Floods: Upton-upon-Severn

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Planning Inspectorate will consider the application from the Environment Agency for consent under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on the banks of the River Severn at Upton-upon-Severn in order to build flood defences. [27916]

Robert Neill: The Planning Inspectorate has considered the application, together with the correspondence relating to it, and has decided that a site inspection is needed to inform its decision. A site visit by an inspector has initially been offered to parties to take place on 12 April 2011. However, the Planning Inspectorate is currently looking at options to hold the site visit earlier, in February 2011. A decision on the application will be made following the site visit.

Football: World Cup 2010

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on entertainment activities related to the 2010 FIFA World Cup. [27366]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer from my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government to the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne (John Healey) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 86W. More broadly, the Department does not undertake spending on entertainment on sporting events. However, the Department does take steps to enable staff who want to watch major cultural and sporting events such as the World Cup to do so, for example, by adjusting their working day, subject to business priorities.

Local Government Finance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to ensure that areas with high levels of inward migration receive adequate funding in the forthcoming local government finance settlement. [28134]

Robert Neill: We use the best data that are available on a consistent basis across all authorities at the time we calculate the settlement. In the case of population projections, these are the sub-national population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics.

We will announce our proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2011-12 in the usual manner in due course.

Local Government Finance: North East

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of central Government funding and grants for *(a)* Sunderland city council and *(b)* local authorities in the North East in the period 2010 to 2014. [28022]

Robert Neill: We will announce our proposals for the local government finance settlement for 2011-12 in the usual manner in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 991W, on departmental contracts, whether he has made an estimate of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions in the spending review period. [28678]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will be seeking savings over the spending review period through the collaborative procurement reviews being co-ordinated by the Office of Government Commerce and Cabinet Office.

However, the Department has not yet made any estimate of the value of contracts that may be cancelled.

Internet

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what measures he plans to put in place to ensure internet neutrality. [27709]

---

[1] *[Official Report, 10 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 1MC.]*

Mr Vaizey: There is no agreed definition of net neutrality. However, the Government are absolutely committed to an open internet. The internet has brought huge economic and social benefits across the world, precisely because of its openness and that must continue.

A contributing factor to the success of the internet has been the lack of legislative restraints that have been placed on it. It is our belief that improved transparency requirements provided by recent revisions to the Electronic Communications Framework, along with a competitive market place and the ability to easily switch providers will mean that regulation in this area will be unnecessary. It is important that we give the market the opportunity to self-regulate, but Ofcom will closely monitor how the market develops and if it develops in an anti-competitive way they will intervene.

In addition, I have made it clear that the Government expect all operators providing an internet access service—both fixed and mobile—to offer all legal content. Consumers should always be able to access any content or service they want to and at the speed they have contracted with their ISP to receive, while content providers and applications should be able to access consumers. ISPs should not be able to discriminate unfairly against services or users. That means no blocking or discriminatory degradation of services or applications for commercial reasons.

There is not yet any evidence that discriminatory practices are emerging in the UK, or that there is a problem with regards to how ISPs or networks manage the traffic that flows over them (something they all engage in for technical reasons to deliver the best possible service to consumers). And this is reinforced by the initial responses to Ofcom's recent consultation on the issue. However, I would like to stress again that should the market develop in a way that damages openness or impedes innovation in spite of the safeguards I have detailed above, we will not hesitate to step in to ensure that the internet remains the open, innovative place we all benefit from.

Olympic Games 2012: Costs

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the London 2012 Olympics. [26158]

Hugh Robertson *[holding answer 2 December 2010]*: The latest anticipated final cost (AFC) of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) programme is forecast at £7.232 billion as set out in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report published in November 2010. As reported since February 2010, the ODA will take on additional responsibilities for the operation of the Olympic Park, and its venues and facilities, between 2011 and the handover to legacy owners. The additional forecast funding of around £126 million for this work will bring the ODA's AFC figure to around £7.358 billion.

Following the Government's spending review announcement on 20 October 2010, the total public sector funding package for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games remains at £9.3 billion. The funding package will, however, be reconfigured to reflect the changing focus of the programme from construction to operational delivery, as described in the latest Quarterly Report on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of the House, or can be accessed at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7535.aspx

The reconfigured funding package will provide funding to ensure that all venues are secure, during the preparatory phase, through six weeks of Olympic and Paralympic competition, and for defined operational requirements. These requirements include shared responsibilities for the safety of spectators and visitors between transport hubs and sporting venues where existing budgets cannot cover the additional requirement, and specific extra responsibilities for host local authorities where the burden imposed for Games-time operations is of such a scale that it should not be borne solely by local council-tax payers. The Government also remain committed to the public sector funding half of the incremental cost of the Paralympic Games. The remainder of the funding package—around £0.5 billion—will be held as an Olympic contingency for cross-programme issues, including any major changes in security circumstances. Further details will be included in the next Annual Report for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games which is due to be published in February 2011.

DEFENCE

Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much additional funding he plans to allocate to the provision of healthcare to service personnel as part of the comprehensive spending review settlement for his Department in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [26293]

Mr Robathan: As announced in the strategic defence and security review, the provision of health care to service personnel will be enhanced by an extra £20 million per annum in the spending review years of 2011-12 to 2014-15. This will be used to pay for additional medical staff and to deliver better mental health care facilities. Department of Health funding provides for standard secondary care services to service personnel; however, their primary care services and non-standard secondary care services are funded by the Ministry of Defence through Defence Medical Services.

Technical Support 3 Contracting Arrangement

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts have been let under the Framework Agreement for Technical Support 3 contracting arrangement; what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest monetary value is of such a contract; and how many such contracts have been awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [27806]

Peter Luff: Since the Framework Agreement for Technical Support 3 (FATS/3) was put in place in April 2009, over 1,530 individual contracts have been placed with FATS/3 contractors. The highest value contract was for £7.9 million and the lowest for £600. Of these contracts some 684 were placed directly with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Many of those contracts placed with larger companies will also have benefited SMEs in the form of sub-contracted work.

Trident Submarines

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extending the life of the Vanguard-class submarines; and if he will make a statement. [21400]

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely additional maintenance costs arising from the extension by nine years of the in-service life of the four Vanguard-class submarines. [20398]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The 2006 White Paper (CM 6994) extended the life of the Vanguard-class by five years to 2024 at an additional cost of £1.3 billion. As announced in the strategic defence and security review, we have deferred the successor submarine in service date from 2024 to 2028 for which we expect to spend around an additional £1.2 billion in maintaining the Vanguard-class.

The overall impact of the changes identified by the value of money study and reported in the strategic defence and security review will reduce costs by £3.2 billion over the next 10 years.

EDUCATION

Advertising: Children

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress the Government has made on the proposal in the coalition agreement to take steps to prevent irresponsible advertising and marketing, especially to children. [26742]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 29 November 2010]:* As set out in the Department for Education business plan 2011-15, we will establish an independent review to advise on how to address the commercialisation and premature sexualisation of childhood. The review will begin in December 2010 and report in May 2011. A further announcement on the scope and remit of the review, which we expect will include tackling irresponsible advertising and marketing to children, will be made in due course.

Apprentices

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what message of congratulation he sent to the winner of the Young Apprentice of the Year competition for 2010; and what plans he has for the future of young apprenticeships for 14 to 16-year-olds. [26765]

Mr Gibb: I was pleased to attend the National Apprenticeship Awards ceremony this year and to congratulate both the winner and all the young apprentices. The winner, Todd Lowdes, has secured a full apprenticeship and his young apprenticeship will stand him in good stead.

Following the conclusion of the spending review, our decision on the future funding for the young apprenticeship programme will be announced shortly.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough of 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 801W, on education maintenance allowance, whether the £60 million funding for the discretionary learner support fund will be additional to the allocation of £26 million this year. [26590]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* The level of the enhanced fund for each of the years covered by the spending review has yet to be confirmed.

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department plans to allocate for the discretionary learner support fund in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011, *(c)* 2012, *(d)* 2014 and *(e)* 2015. [27287]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 2 December 2010]:* The budget for the discretionary fund in the financial year 2010-11 is around £26 million. The level of the enhanced fund for each of the years covered by the spending review has yet to be confirmed. We plan to allocate the enhanced funding in line with the timetable for overall funding allocations for schools and colleges, which will be made by the end of March.

Free Schools

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the charity Chapel Street on its plans to establish free schools. [23182]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has not met or had any discussions with the charity Chapel Street on its plans to establish free schools.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether the proportion of pupils in *(a)* each school and *(b)* each local education authority who do not speak English as their first language will be taken into account in allocating funding under the proposed pupil premium; and if he will make a statement. [26316]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 November 2010]:* We are considering the responses to the consultation on school funding which ended on 18 October, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use for the pupil premium. The consultation did not propose English as an Additional Language (EAL) as one of the options as an indicator.

School Food Trust

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what discussions he had with the board of the School Food Trust prior to the announcement of 14 October 2010 that the Trust will become a charity; [22678]

(2) what recent representations he has received from school catering providers on the future of the School Food Trust; [22679]

(3) what potential donors to the School Food Trust he has identified; [22680]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely proportion of funding for the School Food Trust which is to be provided by school catering providers once it becomes a charity; [22681]

(5) whether the duties of the School Food Trust will change when it becomes a charity. [22682]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 8 November 2010]*: The School Food Trust (SFT) was established in 2005 as a non-departmental public body (NDPB), an independent company and a registered charity.

From 1 April 2011, it will no longer be an NDPB, but will continue as a charity. The SFT plans to set up a Community Interest Company to work alongside the charity. It will continue to advise the Government on school food, but will also be free to sell its services to local authorities, schools, caterers and others on a commercial basis.

Prior to the announcement on 14 October 2010, I met with the Chair and Chief Executive of the SFT, and officials had held a number of discussions with the SFT about future plans.

We expect that the SFT will continue to take forward a number of activities for the Department, and the level of future DFE support will be dependent upon decisions taken following the spending review announcement and the tasks we ask it to undertake.

Other funding will be dependent upon the additional activities undertaken and the take-up of services offered by the SFT.

No representations have been received from school catering providers about the future of the SFT, although Ministers have received correspondence on this subject.

School Sport Partnerships: Finance

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the likely effects of the closure of the school sport partnership on the participation rates in sport of young people; and if he will make a statement. [26747]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: The coalition Government's approach differs from that of the last Government. While the network helped schools to increase participation rates in the areas targeted by the previous Government, the fact remains that the proportion of pupils playing competitive sport regularly has remained disappointingly low.

The Secretary of State has decided to withdraw central funding for the Youth Sport Trust because, in spite of significant central Government expenditure, nearly a quarter of all pupils do not do any competitive sport at all within their own school; and more than half of all pupils do not do any competitive sport at all against other schools.

Furthermore, the actual provision of competitive sport across the country has been very patchy, with some 1,280 secondary schools having none of their pupils taking part in any intra-school sporting competition, and 710 schools where no pupils regularly take part in any inter-school competition.

Consequently, the Secretary of State concluded that a fresh approach to school sport is needed and has announced that he will not continue to provide ring-fenced funding for school sport partnerships. By removing all the unnecessary targets and reporting requirements placed on schools by the previous Government's strategy, schools will be freed up to provide more opportunities for competitive sport that are most appropriate for their own pupils. The best way to increase participation is to give schools the freedom and incentives to organise school sport themselves, rather than imposing a central Government blueprint.

Schools: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* West Ham constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Newham and *(c)* London have participated in a school sports partnership since the creation of the scheme. [26326]

Mr Gibb: All maintained schools in England are currently part of the network of school sport partnerships. The precise number of schools in school sport partnerships in West Ham, Newham and London is:

	Number of schools in school sport partnerships
West Ham constituency	35
London borough of Newham	85
London	2,437

Schools: Transport

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to permit schools and colleges to use funding from the learner support fund for the purposes of student transport. [27292]

Mr Gibb: Discretionary support funding may not currently be used routinely for transport to and from college. The statutory responsibility for making the necessary arrangements for transport to enable 16 to 18-year-olds (and 19 to 25-year-olds with a learning difficulty or disability) to attend education and training lies with local authorities.

We will consider this restriction as we develop the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support funding.

Youth Sport Trust: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the future of youth participation in sport of the withdrawal of funding from the Youth Sport Trust. [26741]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 29 November 2010]*: The coalition Government's approach differs from that of the last Government. While the network helped schools to increase participation rates in the areas targeted by the previous Government, the fact remains that the proportion of pupils playing competitive sport regularly has remained disappointingly low.

The Secretary of State has decided to withdraw central funding for the Youth Sport Trust because, in spite of significant central Government expenditure, nearly a quarter of all pupils do not do any competitive sport at all within their own school; and more than half of all pupils do not do any competitive sport at all against other schools.

Furthermore, the actual provision of competitive sport across the country has been very patchy, with some 1,280 secondary schools having none of their pupils taking part in any intra-school sporting competition, and 710 schools where no pupils regularly take part in any inter-school competition.

Consequently, the Secretary of State concluded that a fresh approach to school sport is needed and has announced that he will not continue to provide ring-fenced funding for school sport partnerships. By removing all the unnecessary targets and reporting requirements placed on schools by the previous Government's strategy, schools will be freed up to provide more opportunities for competitive sport that are most appropriate for their own pupils. The best way to increase participation is to give schools the freedom and incentives to organise school sport themselves, rather than imposing a central Government blueprint.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to contribute to multilateral climate finance funds, including the UN Adaptation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [27973]

Gregory Barker: Multilateral climate finance funds will play an integral part in our commitment to tackle climate change. The Government have allocated £800 million to the multilateral Climate Investment Funds, including £500 million this year. On the Adaptation Fund, we welcome the recent progress it has made in approving its first projects and accrediting implementation agencies.

In the spending review the Government committed to provide £2.9 billion for international climate finance over four years—a significant scaling-up of resources. I am working closely with colleagues across Government on how to programme this spend to meet the UK's priorities. This will include consideration of multilateral funds and whether to make a contribution to the Adaptation Fund itself.

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27518]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change, including its non-departmental public bodies, makes grants to organisations for specific purposes but does not provide sponsorship for cultural or sporting events or charities. Exceptionally the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has made charitable donations as part of its socio-economic remit totalling £1,250 since 2005.

Service Provision

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what structural arrangements are in place in his Department to enable staff of his Department to propose innovations in working practices to improve service provision. [28680]

Gregory Barker: DECC has a programme of work which is looking at how the Department will be shaped and resourced in the coming spending review period. A strand of this work includes engaging with staff via workshops and other mechanisms so they can put forward ideas in a structured manner to improve working practices and service provision.

Timber

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the compliance of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27840]

Gregory Barker: DECC follows the sustainable operations on the Government estate framework which sets targets and standards for sustainable operations, including procurement, within central Government. Under this framework, only timber and timber products that comply with the UK Government's timber procurement policy, i.e. timber originating from independently verified legal and sustainable sources, or from licensed Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) partners, can be required for use on the Government estate.

DECC makes use of a centrally negotiated Government framework agreement for purchasing office furniture, the main source of timber and timber-based products in the Department. This agreement includes relevant sustainability criteria and our office furniture supplier is both Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certified.

DECC is in the process of setting up its own in-house procurement section having previously used the procurement services of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and more recently a shared service with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. This gives us the opportunity to implement our own sustainable procurement policy, including on sustainable timber, and establish procedures to ensure compliance.

DECC's non-departmental bodies are not currently covered by the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) framework but are covered by the UK Government's timber procurement policy. Those that purchase timber or timber-based products use either the centrally negotiated framework agreements or have a sustainable timber clause included in their own contracts.

Wind Power: Construction

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he made of the number of new residential properties which were built with wind turbines in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [27247]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not hold information on the overall number of new build residential properties with wind turbines.

Under the previous low carbon buildings programme (2005-10), the following grants were made for micro and small wind turbines installed on new build residential properties:

LCBP-1 Householders—wind turbines on new build projects

	Number of grants	*Total value (£)*
2005	0	0
2006	0	0
2007	4	7,949
2008	14	30,154
2009	4	10,000

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Detainees

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations Ministers in his Department made to the government of Bahrain requesting that Anthony James be allowed to leave Bahrain. [28522]

Alistair Burt: We have repeatedly made clear our concerns on the lengthy application of a travel ban in this case and the implications for the persons concerned.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with the Crown Prince of Bahrain during his visit to the UK the issue of the treatment of Anthony James and his colleagues. [28523]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the case of Mr James and his colleagues in his meeting with the Crown Prince on 30 November.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will issue guidance on the risks of detention in Bahrain to UK nationals working in that country. [28524]

Alistair Burt: We encourage all British nationals travelling overseas to consult Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice. The Travel Advice for Bahrain states that:

> "Visitors must have legal status in Bahrain when they depart. You may be prevented from departing Bahrain if you are subject to a travel ban, involved in legal proceedings, have unpaid debt, or are a child subject to a custody dispute."

Burma: Thailand

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Thai government to ensure that repatriations of Burmese citizens are monitored. [28514]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our ambassador to Thailand raised refugee issues with Foreign Minister Kasit on 18 November. Foreign Minister Kasit assured us that the Thai authorities were helping to provide temporary assistance for the recent influx of Burmese refugees and that no forcible repatriations had taken place. Our ambassador also raised the recent influx of refugees with the permanent secretary of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who stated that no forced repatriations would be carried out.

We are in close touch with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and local non-governmental organisations and we are closely monitoring the refugee situation on the Thai-Burma border. We are clear that all refugees should be treated in accordance with international humanitarian law and international refugee principles.

Colombia: Embassies

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British and *(b)* local staff are employed by the British embassy in Colombia. [27177]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office employs approximately 80 staff in the British embassy in Bogota, Colombia. This figure includes UK-based civil servants and locally engaged staff. We cannot break this figure down further for operational and security reasons.

Conflict Resolution: Females

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government have for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; and if he will make a statement. [27974]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are fully committed to reducing the impact of conflict on women and girls and promoting their inclusion in resolving conflict. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made a statement to the House on 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, regarding our new National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

This plan clearly sets out how the Government will implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 through a range of initiatives in our diplomatic, defence and development activities. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) launched the plan at an event at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 25 November, involving over 100 representatives drawn from Parliament, civil society groups, Government officials and foreign diplomats.

Our key commitments are to make "Women, Peace and Security" an integral part of our overseas conflict policy; to implement specific action plans in priority countries, starting with Afghanistan, Nepal and Democratic Republic of Congo; and to strengthen the action taken by the international community. A full copy of the plan is available at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/conflict-prevention/women-peace-security/national-action-plan

The plan will be reviewed annually, incorporating feedback from civil society focus groups. Annual progress will be reported to Parliament through the Associate Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security. A full evaluation of the plan will be carried out after three years.

EU Grants and Loans

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which civil society organisations in the UK have received funding from EU funds in each of the last five years; how much each received; and from which EU funding programme the funds were granted. [27547]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally, and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Pope Benedict XVI

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent from the public purse in each cost category on arrangements for the recent visit to the UK of Pope Benedict XVI. [28044]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Full costs and details of Government spending on the recent visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK are still being calculated. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) intends to make a statement as soon as they are finalised.

South America: Embassies

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which three British diplomatic missions in South America have the largest *(a)* budget and *(b)* number of employees. [27176]

Alistair Burt: The three British diplomatic missions in South America with the largest budgets are, in order, Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Bogota. In terms of employees, the largest missions are Brasilia, Bogota, Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires. Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires have approximately the same number of staff.

UN Principles for Responsible Investment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to take steps to promote the use of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment. [28020]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are committed to the promotion of good corporate governance and welcome initiatives that aim to assist companies adhere to these principles.

UN Women

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will represent the UK on the Executive Board of UN Women. [28526]

Alistair Burt: The United Kingdom will be represented on the Executive Board of UN Women for five out of the next six consecutive years, starting from 2011. As is the case with other UN Executive Boards, the United Kingdom will be represented by the UK Mission to the UN, supplemented as necessary by relevant Government Departments.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United Nations Special Envoy for the Western Sahara. [27923]

Alistair Burt: My noble Friend the right hon. Lord Howell met Ambassador Ross, the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, on 22 June and had a wide-ranging discussion on issues relating to Western Sahara. The Government fully support the UN process and the efforts of Ambassador Christopher Ross.

I have myself discussed the issue in the last few weeks with both the Algerian and Moroccan Governments during visits to the region.

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Western Sahara. [27924]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador and officials at our embassy in Rabat are continually engaged on the human rights situation in Western Sahara and raise specific human rights cases with the Moroccan authorities when appropriate.

The UK Government support the idea of independent verification of the human rights situation in Western Sahara.

Western Sahara: Torture

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of alleged torture of Saharawi civilians taken into custody following violence in El Aauin. [28060]

Alistair Burt: We have received no formal reports of alleged torture after the recent violence in Western Sahara. However, we are aware of allegations made by a number of civil society organisations.

Our ambassador and officials at our embassy in Rabat have been monitoring the situation in Western Sahara closely since the reports of violence on 8 November. They remain in contact with the Moroccan authorities in Rabat and a wide range of interlocutors from civil society.

HEALTH

Benzodiazepines

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 136W, on benzodiazepines, by what means his Department determined that the 2008 licence cancellation by Wyeth was for commercial rather than safety reasons; for what reasons his

Department no longer holds the original clinical data: on what date it ceased to hold that data; where it sent that data; and if he will make a statement; [27735]

(2) whether the original licence for Ativan was a Licence of Right; which body issued that licence; and by what authorisation procedures it issued that licence; [27780]

(3) how many generic lorazepam licences have been issued since 1980; what the date of issue was of each such licence; and whether the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency held any clinical trial data on the safety of lorazepam on respect of each such licence; [27797]

(4) whether his Department holds the original licence applications for *(a)* diazepam, *(b)* oxazepam and *(c)* nitrazepam; [27798]

(5) how many drugs other than lorazepam have been licensed under the terms of EU Directive 2001/23/EC without new clinical trials investigating safety. [27834]

Paul Burstow: Benzodiazepines have been used for the treatment of anxiety and insomnia since the early 1960s. When the Medicines Act 1968 came into force in 1971 all medicines that were on the United Kingdom market at the time were automatically given a Product Licence of Right (PLR). The licence for lorazepam (brand name Ativan) was originally issued by the then Medicines Division of the Department of Health and Social Security in 1972. For products with a PLR, product information had been prepared by the manufacturers and the PLRs were subsequently reviewed by the Committee for the Review of Medicines (CRM), an independent scientific advisory body set up for this purpose. CRM advised that full product licences should be granted for lorazepam.

In 2008 the product licences for all oral Ativan products were cancelled following a notification from the then marketing authorisation holder (Wyeth) stating that these products along with a number of other Wyeth products were no longer marketed in the UK. This notification was made under Article 23a of 2001/83/EC (as amended) which requires the marketing authorisation holder to notify the competent authority if the product ceases to be placed on the market either temporarily or permanently.

Since 1980, a total of 26 generic licences have been granted for lorazepam containing products and the dates of authorisation of these product licences are provided in the following table. No clinical trial data were submitted in support of these licence applications. Under Directive 2001/83/EC clinical trial data are not required for generic licences. Article 10.1 of the directive enables applications for generic medicinal products to refer to the safety and efficacy data of the reference product provided bioequivalence to the reference product has been demonstrated. After a period of clinical use (10 years in the UK) safety and efficacy will have been better established and repetitive tests on humans or animals are not justified without over-riding cause. Since 2003, approximately 5,200 product licences have been granted under Article 10.1 of Directive 2001/83/EC, encompassing around 400 drug substances. Prior to this date records are not held in a similar searchable form.

Under the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's record management policy all application files (files that are submitted by a manufacturer for the licensing of a product) and data for licences are held for 15 years. After this period, files are destroyed unless there is a legal, regulatory, or business need to keep them, or unless they are considered to be of lasting historic interest. In line with this policy the original licence applications for lorazepam, diazepam, nitrazepam and oxazepam products are no longer held.

Generic lorazepam licences granted since 1980

Product licence number	*Date of authorisation*
PL 00530/0080	1 April 1981
PL 00530/0081	1 April 1981
PL 00142/0164	18 November 1992
PL 00142/0165	18 November 1992
PL 04569/0024	8 December 1982
PL 04569/0025	8 December 1982
PL 00225/0063	4 February 1985
PL 00225/0075	18 October 1985
PL 04556/0019	8 January 1986
PL 04556/0020	8 January 1986
PL 04416/0016	11 January 1987
PL 04416/0017	11 January 1987
PL 04416/0094	23 March 1987
PL 04416/0095	23 March 1987
PL 00095/0126	6 March 1991
PL 00095/0127	6 March 1991
PL 00401/0050	22 March 1991
PL 00401/0051	22 March 1991
PL 00039/0182	11 July 1991
PL 00152/0224	11 July 1991
PL 00152/0225	11 July 1991
PL 00037/0180	5 September 1991
PL 00037/0181	15 September 1991
PL 00039/0183	31 March 1992
PL 04077/0124	23 August 1993
PL 04077/0125	23 August 1993

Cumberland Infirmary

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he made an estimate of the proportion of the total running costs for Cumberland Infirmary *(a)* paid to the private finance initiative provider in each year from 2005-09 and *(b)* expected to be paid to that provider in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [26476]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data for the proportion of total revenue expenditure by North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust in respect of its private finance initiative (PFI) scheme, are set out in the following table.

Data are not held centrally for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust proportion of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI

	Percentage of total revenue expenditure relating to PFI
2005-06	8.5
2006-07	8.4
2007-08	8.1
2008-09	8.1
2009-10[1]	7.7

[1] 2009-10 accounts were compiled under international finance reporting standards under which PFI costs in the audited summarisation schedules of trusts are split between capital repayments and revenue expenditure elements, which does not make a precise like for like comparison with earlier years in this table possible. However, an estimate of the PFI unitary payment for 2009-10 is held centrally by the Department as well as the audited outturn revenue expenditure figure for the trust for this year and the percentage figure for this year is calculated using these two figures.

Notes:

1. The percentages provided represent the net revenue expenditure in respect of PFI schemes as a proportion of total revenue expenditure.
2. 2005-06 to 2008-09 figures compiled under United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules of the North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust for 2005-06 to 2009-10.

Continence

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make provision in the delivery of continence services under his proposed reforms to the NHS for *(a)* the ability of continence patients to (i) work and (ii) participate in sports and social activities, *(b)* a reduction in levels of social isolation of continence patients, *(c)* a reduction in levels of bullying of continence patients of school age, *(d)* increased dignity for continence patients, *(e)* increased confidence for continence patients in going out in public and *(f)* improved quality of life for continence patients. [28539]

Paul Burstow: 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England', published on 30 November, sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of public health in England including driving health and well-being improvement locally.

Our strategy for public health includes the development of a new vision for school nurses reflecting their broad public health role in the school community and recognising the major role they play in managing pupils' well-being. The vision will engage with a range of issues including bullying and continence.

The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortiums of general practitioner practices.

Mental Illness: Prisoners

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 1324W on mental illness: prisoners, when he plans to publish the cross-Government mental health strategy. [28682]

Paul Burstow: The new mental health strategy, which we plan to publish in the new year, will be based on clear outcomes and will follow a life-course approach. It will aim to establish mental health more clearly as central to a number of initiatives across Government and in the mainstream of local health and social care services. It will aim to give mental health the same prominence as physical health issues such as cancer and heart disease. It will also focus on the importance of increased productivity across the system, while improving quality of services.

Neonatal Care

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have delivered a two-year outcome assessment for neonatal care. [28025]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected by the Department. The National Neonatal Audit Programme, which is funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership and run by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) Science and Research Department, will audit two-year outcomes. RCPCH has published the preliminary findings in the National Neonatal Audit Programme Annual Report 2009. Most neonatal units—95.5% (170 out of 178)—in England participated in the audit in 2009 and a further four units will participate in 2010.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each assessment by strategic health authorities on the ability of NHS trusts to become foundation trusts; and what estimate he has made of the number of trusts likely to obtain foundation trust status. [28537]

Anne Milton: The returns from the strategic health authorities are being considered by officials in the Department in discussion with the local national health service and are therefore work in progress at this time. It is anticipated that by April 2011 the returns will have been validated and the agreed information will then be placed in the Library.

NHS: Surveys

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the reported findings of each Ipsos MORI six-monthly survey on public perceptions of the national health service funded by his Department since the start of 2008. [28538]

Paul Burstow: The reported findings of seven Ipsos MORI surveys from March 2008 to March 2010 have been placed in the Library. These will also be published on the Department's website.

Older People: Care Homes

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to local authorities on improving the psychological well-being of older people in residential care; [27817]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the psychological well-being of older people in residential care. [27818]

Paul Burstow: I refer my hon. Friend to the replies I gave on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 465-66W.

The Department has not issued such guidance to local authorities.

As set out in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence Liberating the NHS', we will be expanding the remit of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

(NICE) to include social care. Over time, this will allow NICE to develop quality standards and supporting guidance, covering a range of care pathways, covering both health and social care services.

Suicide

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare, what steps his Department is taking to encourage *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts to address the variation in mortality rates from suicide per 100,000 population. [28200]

Paul Burstow: Strategic health authorities have previously been tasked with reducing the suicide rate in their own areas and it is for them to work with primary care trusts to achieve this. We plan to publish a new Suicide Prevention Strategy in the new year which will set out a way forward, taking account of lessons learned over the eight years since the previous strategy was published. It will also take account of the most up to date suicide data.

HOME DEPARTMENT

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which areas the UK has signalled that it does not intend to apply its opt-out to a new EU legislative proposal since 6 May 2010. [28212]

James Brokenshire: Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol 21 to the Treaties in respect of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice provide that the UK is not bound by measures adopted pursuant to Title V of Part III of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. However, in accordance with Article 3, the UK may notify the Council within three months of a proposal or initiative being presented to the Council that it wishes to take part—'an opt-in'. Since 6 May 2010, the UK has notified its wish to participate in the following six proposals:

The Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement (Business Innovation and Skills);

The EU-US agreement on the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (Treasury);

The EU-Georgia readmission agreement;

The draft Directive on combating the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (Ministry of Justice);

The draft Directive on the European Investigation Order (Home Office); and

The draft Directive on the right to Information in criminal proceedings (Ministry of Justice).

Since, 6 May 2010 the UK has decided not to participate in a further five such proposals:

A Commission proposal for a Directive on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal, proceedings (Ministry of Justice);

The draft Directive to combat human trafficking (Home Office);

The Council Decision on a proposal to amend the EU-Swiss Agreement on the free movement of workers (Department for Work and Pensions);

The draft Directive on seasonal workers (Home Office); and

The draft Directive on intra corporate transferees (Home Office).

Article 4 of Protocol 19 to the Treaties on the Schengen acquis also provides that the UK may request to take part in some or all of the acquis. The UK participates in some of the acquis. Article 5 of the Protocol provides that the UK is deemed to opt-in to measures building on parts of the acquis in which it participates unless it notifies the Council that it does not wish to take part in the measure—'an opt-out'. Since 6 May 2010 the UK has participated in two measures building on parts of the Schengen acquis in which the UK participates:

The draft Regulation establishing an Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice; and

An Arrangement between the EU and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland on the Schengen acquis.

In addition to this, the previous Government decided to participate in a Council Regulation on migration from the Schengen Information System (SIS I) to the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). This decision took effect on 8 May 2010.

Forensic Science Service Stakeholder Perception Audit

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the Forensic Science Service Stakeholder Perception Audit 2010. [28042]

James Brokenshire: Market research activity by the Forensic Science Service is a matter for the Board and the company.

I am advised, however, that the approximate cost to the company of the exercise and resultant analysis is in the region of £6,000.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Management: Pay

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the *(a)* names, *(b)* responsibilities and *(c)* annual salaries are of each member of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's senior management team. [25196]

Mr Charles Walker *[holding answer 19 November]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the names, responsibilities and annual salaries of the members of IPSA's senior management team. The answer is set out in the table below.

Name	*Job title*	*Responsibilities*	*Annual salary (£)*
Andrew McDonald	Chief Executive Officer	Responsible for management and leadership of IPSA, delivery of its business plan and the Board's strategic objectives.	105,000-109,999
Bob Evans	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Responsible for the financial management of IPSA, and for its corporate service functions, including human resources, finance, IT and data security, facilities, procurement and contract management.	65,000-69,999
Anne Power	Director of Communications	Responsible for the strategic planning and delivery of internal and external communications, and responsible for IPSA's publication programme.	75,000-79,999
John Sills	Director of Policy	Responsible for the management and strategic direction of policy development.	85,000-89,999
Scott Woolveridge	Director of Operations	Responsible for the management of IPSA's core business processes, including payroll, the validation and reimbursement of expenses, and support services.	80,000-84,999

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Manpower

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in each division of his Department at each civil service payband *(a)* are assigned to work on agricultural issues and *(b)* have training in a discipline relevant to agriculture. [27823]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports numerous and diverse programmes addressing food security or agricultural development, involving many staff from a range of professional backgrounds. To determine the numbers of all staff involved and the extent of their agricultural related training would incur disproportionate cost.

DFID has two senior civil service positions and a group of professional livelihoods advisers (currently 57) who are required to have specific expertise and experience in agricultural or rural development, food security, agricultural adaptation to climate change and related livelihoods issues. They must have a minimum of five years relevant experience and a higher degree in a relevant subject. The numbers of livelihoods staff employed at each civil service pay band are provided in the following table.

DFID grade	*Traditional civil service grade*	*Pay range (London scale)*	*Number of livelihoods advisers*
SCS	G5	£60,002-£117,750	2
A1	G6	£58,120-£68,221	22
A2	G7	£47,555-£56,293	34
A2L	SEO	£30,868-£34,534	1

Departmental Policy Goals

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's international development policy goals of the review of the EU Markets in Financial Instruments Directive. [26404]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission has not yet consulted on the review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive. A consultation document is expected to be issued shortly.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much money his Department has *(a)* allocated and *(b)* disbursed to climate change adaptation projects directed at marginal smallholder farmers in the developing world in each of the last five years. [27816]

Mr O'Brien: Our central recording systems do not capture this level of detail for project expenditure. Compiling the requested information would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises that smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and we take this into account in the design and implementation of a number of our development activities, including through our research programme and our adaptation programmes.

The UK Government have committed to providing £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over the period 2010-12 to help the developing world carry out the urgent work needed to adapt to climate change, adopt clean technology and reduce emissions from deforestation. In 2010-11 the UK provided approximately 41% of its Fast Start allocation for adaptation, a significant share of which has been designed to benefit smallholder farmers. The Department is in the course of monitoring and evaluating the impact of these ongoing programmes.

Developing Countries: Food Supply

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many agriculture and food security projects overseas *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have visited since June 2010. [27815]

Mr O'Brien: In September the Secretary of State visited the work of the Protection of Basic Services programme in Ethiopia, which is helping to train some 9 million farmers in new agricultural techniques. My right hon. Friend stayed with farmers in a district in the south of the country who had benefited from this support and observed the new higher value crops that had been introduced as a result.

I have visited several such projects since June 2010. In Uganda I met with the Northern Ugandan Farmers Cooperative, a network of around 30 cooperatives across the Acholi region, which brings together farmers (up to 3,000 in each location) to store and sell produce and to learn new methods of production. I have also visited the Land Tenure Regularisation programme in Rwanda, which is registering landholders to provide them with security of their ownership and encourage investments, and the terraces building programme under the Social Protection Programme. While in Nigeria, I visited the PrOpCom agriculture programme, designed to enhance commodity and services market development in the agriculture sector. I have also witnessed how private sector investment and innovative business models are providing livelihood opportunities in Ghana, through the Ghana Grains Partnership (GGP) Maize Farm. I also visited a tree nursery in Ghana and stayed with a family in their hut in Gupanerigu, Northern Ghana, who were maize and groundnut farmers. In Sierra Leone I met farmers from Bo district where we discussed the issues of land licensing, market access and labour skills, especially for women. While in Tanzania I launched the Coastal Rural Support Programme (CRSP) where I met representatives from farmer groups that have already benefited from the programme in the neighbouring region of Lindi.

International Violence Against Women Champion

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the remit and responsibilities of the International Violence Against Women Champion in that capacity will be; and what funds will be allocated by his Department for the performance of those responsibilities. [28519]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The ministerial champion for tackling violence against women overseas will be responsible for providing policy coherence and coordination across Whitehall, ensuring that tackling violence against women and girls is fully integrated into our international work. The ministerial champion will represent the United Kingdom overseas, raising the profile of this issue bilaterally and multilaterally with European and international partners.

In addition, the ministerial champion will actively encourage all relevant Ministers to use the available levers and influence in their domestic, EU and international engagements to drive efforts on eliminating violence against girls and women to the top of the agenda.

Departments are currently finalising arrangements for support and funding for the role.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the International Violence Against Women Champion will exercise ministerial responsibilities in his Department. [28520]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID), along with the Foreign Office (FCO), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Government Equalities Office (GEO) all work on tackling violence against women overseas. Ministerial responsibility for taking forward the UK's work overseas will continue to rest with departmental Ministers.

The ministerial champion will encourage relevant Ministers to use all available levers and influence in their domestic, EU and international engagements to drive this issue to the top of the agenda.

Timber

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the compliance of his Department with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria for sourcing sustainable timber. [27847]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) environmental procurement policy is to procure wood products that have originated from sustainable and legal sources, in accordance with UK Government standards, as issued by the Government's Central Point of Expertise on Timber Procurement (CPET). The Department checks that direct suppliers, or suppliers managing works on its behalf, who procure timber products, are compliant with UK policy. DFID overseas offices are advised to meet UK standards where it is possible to do so.

We have not made an assessment of the extent to which DFID procures products from forests that are managed sustainably according to schemes that follow the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's criteria. DFID's expenditure on direct procurement of timber and wood products is relatively low and confined mainly to building work, furniture and office supplies.

Tristan da Cunha: Ports

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) for what reasons his Department decided to approve the allocation of funding to repair the harbour on Tristan da Cunha; [27782]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of repairs to Calshot harbour on Tristan Da Cunha; [27783]

(3) what information his Department holds on the *(a)* population of Tristan da Cunha and *(b)* average per capita income per head of residents of Tristan da Cunha; [27784]

(4) whether funding provided by his Department for repairs to the harbour on Tristan da Cunha will be classified as official development assistance; [27785]

(5) how much funding his Department plans to provide for repairs to the harbour on Tristan da Cunha. [27786]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is obliged under the UN Charter to promote the well-being of the inhabitants of the Overseas Territories. Without urgent repair work, the harbour on Tristan da Cunha, which was severely damaged in a storm earlier this year, could be rendered unusable during the South Atlantic winter. Without a harbour, tourism and fishing, the major sources of income on the island, would be severely reduced and the island would require a significant extra subsidy from British taxpayers every year.

To divulge estimated costs now would prejudice ongoing contractual negotiations. Final costs will be fully met by DFID and all funding will be classified as official development assistance (ODA).

The current population of Tristan da Cunha is 265. Average per capita income is £3,100.

JUSTICE

Judiciary: Pensions

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the proposed use of the consumer price index for the indexation of pensions will apply to the judicial pensions schemes. [28247]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Yes.

TREASURY

BBC

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the Director-General of the BBC; and whether the matter of pensions was discussed at those meetings. [24714]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Climate Change Levy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 536W, on the climate change levy, whether the implementation of his proposals to reform the climate change levy will be compatible with the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [28016]

Justine Greening: The Government will shortly publish a proposal to reform the climate change levy in order to provide greater support and certainty to the carbon price in UK power generation. Once the consultation has been published the Government would welcome detailed discussion on any technical aspects of the proposal.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 536W, on the climate change levy, whether the implementation of his proposals to reform the climate change levy will be revenue-neutral. [28017]

Justine Greening: This is a matter for the Chancellor to consider as part of the Budget process and once the responses to the consultation have been explored in detail.

The consultation will be published shortly.

Departmental Consultants

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many business people he has appointed to advise his Department who own or operate companies with annual turnovers of less than *(a)* £100 million, *(b)* £50 million, *(c)* £25 million and *(d)* £5 million. [23195]

Justine Greening: One business person has been appointed in category *(c)*.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7435]

Justine Greening: The available information is set out in the following table.

			£000
	HMT[1]	*DMO*[1]	*APA*[2]
2002-03	208	1	n/a
2003-04	116	1	n/a
2004-05	213	1	n/a
2005-06	256	1	n/a
2006-07	170	1	n/a
2007-08	125	1	n/a
2008-09	91	10	n/a
2009-10	116	1	0

[1] Data for HM Treasury and DMO are only available from 2002-03 due to the introduction of a new accounting system in that year.

[2] APA was formed in December 2009.

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has not incurred any spending on hospitality.

Economic Governance Task Force

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with other EU member states on an EU agreement on minimum requirements for the budgetary frameworks of Member States since the publication of the final report of the EU Task Force on Economic Governance; and whether he expects any such agreed requirements to be obligatory for the UK. [26374]

Justine Greening: Following the final report of President van Rompuy's taskforce, requirements for budgetary frameworks are being discussed regularly within the EU.

The Government fully support ongoing work to improve economic governance across the EU. Robust fiscal frameworks underpinned by accurate, transparent statistics and data are an important part of this and the Government therefore support agreed EU standards for domestic frameworks. However, fiscal sovereignty must be protected and the Government therefore favour political agreement on these standards.

The Commission has proposed having a directive on budgetary frameworks. Such a directive would have its legal base in article 126(14) of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union and would be agreed by Qualified Majority Voting: according to the current Commission proposal member states would have three years to comply with its provisions. The UK has a high quality and robust national framework, with independent fiscal and statistical authorities and a multiannual budgetary framework. This means that the UK would already comply with many of the proposed minimum standards.

EU Grants and Loans: Republic of Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the Exchequer revenue of the financial assistance package agreed for the Republic of Ireland. [26676]

Mr Hoban: Details of a financial package for the Republic of Ireland have not yet been finalised. It will be informed by a technical mission led by the IMF, European Commission and European Central Bank.

Fossil Fuels: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 363W, on energy: subsidies, if he will take steps through bilateral contacts to encourage his G20 counterparts to implement national commitments to reduce fossil fuel subsidies. [28461]

Justine Greening: The United Kingdom supports the G20 commitment to phase out and rationalise over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest, and will continue to encourage its implementation as part of appropriate bilateral and multilateral engagement. At the G20 summit in Seoul on 11-12 November, G20 leaders directed their Finance and Energy Ministers to report back on the progress made in implementing country-specific strategies at the 2011 summit in France.

Impact Assessments

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on equality impact assessments. [28591]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials received representations from a wide variety of organisations and individuals regarding equality impact assessments in relation to both the June 2010 Emergency Budget and the spending review. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The Treasury takes its statutory equality duties very seriously. I work closely with my colleagues, especially the Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, to ensure that HM Treasury complies with its statutory obligations.

Members: Correspondence

Alan Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to respond to my letter of 29 October 2010 on child benefit. [25811]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 22 November 2010]*: The Chancellor replied to the right hon. Member on 16 November.

Personal Income

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the gross average wage on a purchasing power parity basis in each other OECD country. [24194]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 15 November]*: The Treasury draws on data from a wide range of international data sources including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund, Eurostat, European Commission, and International Labour Organisation. Gross average wage public statistics can be found on the OECD's statistics website at:

http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the marginal rate at average earnings in *(a)* the United States, *(b)* France, *(c)* Germany, *(d)* Italy, *(e)* Spain, *(f)* the Netherlands, *(g)* Austria, *(h)* Belgium, *(i)* Sweden and *(j)* Norway. [24196]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 15 November 2010]*: The Treasury draws on data from a wide range of international data sources including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund, Eurostat, European Commission, and International Labour Organisation. Marginal rate at average earnings data for the countries listed can be found on the OECD's public statistics website at:

http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received advice from the Office for National Statistics on the proposed use of the consumer price index for the indexation of pensions. [28248]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Department made use of a range of information provided by the Office for National Statistics regarding price inflation indices.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 25703 on the private finance initiative tabled on 17 November 2010 for ordinary written answer. [28646]

Justine Greening: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury replied to the hon. Member on 30 November, *Official Report*, column 681W.

WALES

Wind Power: Wales

Albert Owen: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the location of manufacturing facilities at port sites in Wales to support offshore wind power; and if she will make a statement; [27950]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on *(a)* facilities at port sites in Wales and *(b)* technological innovation to support development of offshore wind power; and if she will make a statement. [27951]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan) has regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues and with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on Energy related issues including the potential benefits that offshore wind power offers to Wales.

On 25 October the Department for Energy and Climate Change announced investment of £60 million to establish a world-class ports infrastructure in England. I very much welcome the fact that Wales received a Barnett Consequential in the spending review in the normal way as a result of this additional coalition Government investment.

Funding provided for ports in Wales is ultimately for the Welsh Assembly Government to determine, but I am sure it would complement their plans for Anglesey to become an Energy Island which the hon. Gentleman has advocated for some time.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce: Expenditure

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 81-2W, on ethnic minorities, which *(a)* Taskforce members and *(b)* strategic partners attended each event; and what costs were incurred for each in respect of each event. [27472]

Lynne Featherstone: Expenses incurred by members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors' Taskforce who attended and/or facilitated taskforce events were reimbursed by the Government Equalities Office. Not all taskforce members who led or attended an event incurred or claimed expenses.

The following table gives a breakdown of taskforce members who incurred and claimed expenses for facilitating and/or attending an event or series of taskforce events:

Taskforce member	*Event*	*Expenses*	*Amount claimed (£)*
Dr Anwara Ali	TUC	Facilitator fee	163
Carol Francis	Gloucester and South London	Total for travel and facilitator fees for two events	260.40
Humaira Khan	Chilterns with Windsor and Maidenhead	Travel and loss of earning	145.40
Lorna Campbell	Gloucester	Travel and facilitator fees	217
Lurline Champagnie OBE	Tower Hamlets, Islington, TUC, Newcastle, Leicester, Glasgow, Liverpool, Luton, Bradford	Total for travels accommodation costs and facilitators fees for nine events	1,671.19
Maya de Souza	Camden	Facilitator	163
Baroness Meral Ece OBE	Chiltern and Camden	Total for travel/ facilitators fees for two events	[illegible]336
Mia Jones	Liverpool	Travel	50.25
Mimi Harker	Harrow, South London, Chiltern/ Windsor and Maidenhead	Total for travel and facilitator fees for three events	587
Baroness Uddin	TUC, Glasgow, Gloucester, Islington South London	Total for travel costs for five events.	[1]417.61
Salma Yaqoob	Swansea	Facilitator fee	163
Thea Khamis	Newcastle	Travel	83.29
Francine Fernandes (strategic partner)	Birmingham	Facilitator fee	163

[1] In addition, the GEO paid chair fees of £9,591.50 to Baroness Uddin for the period April 2008 to March 2009 at a daily rate of £500.

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 81-2W, on ethnic minorities, how many people attended each of the 16 events; and how many people of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* age group and *(c)* ethnicity attended each such event. [27668]

Lynne Featherstone: Information on the number of people who attended each of the 16 taskforce events was published in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Women Councillors Taskforce Report. I have placed a copy of the full report in the Library and it is also available at:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Task%20Force%20Report%20Oct%202009.pdf

Statistics broken down by gender were not collected. Given that the events were targeted at ethnic minority women the overwhelming majority of delegates were female. Information on the ethnic and age break down of delegates for each of the 16 events is as follows:

	Ethnicity	*Percentage ethnicity*	*Age*	*Percentage age*
Tower Hamlets: 23 July 2008	Black or Black British	48	18-24	4
	White	20	25-34	12
	Mixed	16	35-44	40
	Asian or British Asian	16	45-64	40
			65+	4
Birmingham: 17 October 2008	Asian or British Asian	57	18-24	n/a
	Black or Black British	[illegible]9	25-34	n/a
	Mixed	4	35-44	n/a
	White	2	45-64	n/a
	Other	8	65+	n/a
Harrow: 21 November 2008	Black	70	18-24	0
	Asian or British Asian	14	25-34	24
	White	8	35-44	24
	Other	5	45-64	49
	Mixed	3	65+	3
Swansea: 12 December 2008	Black	51	18-24	3
	White	23	25-34	15
	Asian	11	35-44	58
	Mixed	9	45-64	21
	Other	6	65+	3
Islington: 9 January 2009	Black	54	18-24	2
	Asian	23	25-34	27
	White	14	35-44	25
	Mixed	5	45-64	44
	Other	4	65+	2
TUC: 3 February 2009	Black	79	18-24	0
	Asian	8	25-34	9
	White	4	35-44	22
	Mixed	4	45-64	61
	Other	4	65+	9
Glasgow: 13 February 2009	Asian	62	18-24	6
	Black	19	25-34	33
	White	14	35-44	33
	Other	5	45-64	28
			65+	0
Gloucester: 19 February 2009	Black	59	18-24	4
	Asian	15	25-34	8
	Mixed	7	35-44	35
	White	7	45-64	54
	Did not wish to disclose	4	65+	0
Newcastle: 20 March 2009[5]	Asian	48	18-24	0

	Ethnicity	Percentage ethnicity	Age	Percentage age
	White	24	25-34	18
	Black	16	35-44	18
	Other	12	45-64	64
			65+	0
Leicester: 17 April 2009	Asian	68	18-24	10
	Black	20	25-34	5
	Mixed	2	35-44	29
	Other	7	45-64	55
	White British	1.3	65+	2
Camden: 24 April 2009	Black	59	18-24	5
	Asian	23	25-34	15
	Mixed	9	35-44	40
	Other	9	45-64	40
			65+	0
South London: 21 May 2009	Black	78	18-24	4
	Asian	7	25-34	24
	Mixed	5	35-44	22
	White	4	45-64	50
	Other	5	65+	0
Liverpool: 29 May 2009	Black	33	18-24	3
	White	30	25-34	37
	Asian	20	35-44	17
	Mixed	17	45-64	43
			65+	0
Chilterns, Windsor and Maidenhead: 26 June 2009	Asian	48	18-24	10
	Black	33	25-34	24
	Mixed	5	35-44	33
	White	10	45-64	33
	Other	5	65+	0
Luton: 17 July 2009	Black	60	18-24	4
	Asian	32	25-34	18
	White	4	35-44	42
	Mixed	2	45-64	36
	Other	2	65+	0
Bradford: 22 July 2009	Asian	61	18-24	8
	Mixed	18	25-34	27
	Black	9	35-44	27
	White	9	45-64	35
	Other	3	65+	4

Commission on the Status of Women

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on attendance at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in February to March 2010; and how many civil servants attended the event. [22062]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) spent £17,726 on attendance at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February to March 2010. This figure represents the costs for the delegation which accompanied the former Minister for Women and Equalities, who represented the United Kingdom at the CSW. In addition to attending CSW the former Minister held a series of bilateral meetings with United Nations representatives and country delegations to promote the early establishment of the United Nations Body on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ('UN Women').

The UK delegation for this two-week event is broken down as follows:

The former Minister for Women and Equalities.

One senior civil servant from the Government Equalities Office (GEO) for the first week only.

One Private Secretary for part of the first week to support the Minister.

One senior policy adviser from the GEO for the second week only.

One senior policy advisor from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) official for the whole duration of the event. FCO funded his attendance.

Additionally, one special adviser for part of the first week was paid by GEO and another funded by Cabinet Office.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on press cuttings services in each of the last 12 months. [26410]

Lynne Featherstone: During the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has spent £8,583 on the provision of services for press cuttings. The breakdown of the expenditure for each month is as follows:

Invoice date	*Expenditure (£)*
2009	
October	1,232
November	993
December	837
2010	
January	1,118
February	1,272
March	1,127
April	826
May	656
June	128
July	130
August	130
September	134

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on press cuttings services in each year since its creation. [28161]

Lynne Featherstone: Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has spent the following amounts on the provision of services for press cuttings:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2007-08[1]	1,763
2008-09	17,162
2009-10	16,284
2010-11[2]	2,004

[1] From 12 October 2007 GEO's press service was provided by Department for Work and Pensions.

[2] Current expenditure as at 30 September 2010.

Equality: Public Bodies

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she has made an assessment of the effects on economic growth and employment levels in each of the next four financial years of her decision not to implement section 1 of the Equality Act 2010. [25926]

Lynne Featherstone: The decision not to implement section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 will lift a bureaucratic burden from a small number of public authorities. The wider assessment referred to was not considered necessary—there is no reason why the duty would have had any effect on growth or employment levels.

Grants

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the monetary value was of grants awarded by the Government Equalities Office in 2009-10; and how much she expects to award in grants in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [27864]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 1 December 2010]*: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given on 19 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 989-90W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to *(a)* introduce a cap on housing benefit and *(b)* reduce housing benefit rates from average local rents to the value of the lowest third of rents. [28517]

Steve Webb: The measures to apply a cap on local housing allowance rates and to set rates at the 30th percentile of rents in the local area will come into force for new claims in April 2011. Existing customers will be protected against these changes for nine months following the date their claim is reviewed by the local authority, providing there is no relevant change in their circumstances.

Housing Benefit: Unemployed People

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what distinction will be made between jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants who are unwilling to find work and those unable to do so under his Department's proposals to withdraw housing benefit from those with JSA claims of over 12 months duration. [28589]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to withdraw housing benefit from jobseekers as a sanction for not taking employment or actively seeking work. The measure announced in the June Budget means that a person's housing benefit entitlement will be reduced by 10% after 12 months entitlement to both jobseeker's allowance and housing benefit.

Marginal Deductions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's calculations of the maximum marginal deduction rate under universal credit take account of council tax benefit payments. [26254]

Steve Webb: The maximum marginal deduction rate presented in the White Paper is calculated using the assumption that help with council tax for low-income households is included within the universal credit and subject to the single overall taper of 65%.

The Government's recent announcement that they would give local authorities more say on the administration of council tax benefit means that the Department will work closely with local government and the devolved Administrations to develop the details of the proposal and to ensure that this reform does not undermine the positive impact of universal credit on work incentives.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what effect the receipt of council tax benefit payments has on an individual's marginal deduction rate. [26255]

Steve Webb: Marginal deduction rates measure the amount of each additional pound of gross earnings that is lost through tax, national insurance and withdrawn benefits or tax credits.

Council tax benefit has a taper rate of 20% and housing benefit has a taper rate of 65% which is applied to excess income above the individual's applicable amount.

The housing benefit and council tax benefit taper rates are additive, so the marginal deduction rate faced by a claimant in receipt of both housing benefit and council tax benefit is 85%. This 85% is applied to net earnings, so the overall marginal deduction rate faced by the individual would depend on what rate of tax they pay and any tax credit tapers they may be subject to.

The maximum marginal deduction rate for an individual in receipt of housing benefit/council tax benefit, tax credits and subject to tax and national insurance is 96%.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account he took of the housing costs of pensioners when developing his proposals for the indexation of pensions by the consumer price index. [28249]

Steve Webb: The housing cost component of price inflation indices was one feature considered when making the decision to use the consumer prices index (CPI) for the indexation of pensions. The retail prices index (RPI) includes mortgage interest payments, which caused it to fall in 2009, leading to some elements of the state pension—principally additional pensions (i.e. SERPS and S2P)—being frozen.

Only 7% of pensioners have a mortgage[1]. The CPI excludes mortgage interest, which is not a relevant housing cost for the majority of pensioners. We acknowledge that many pensioners face housing costs that are excluded from the CPI, for example council tax, but on balance take the view that overall the CPI better reflects the living costs of pensioners.

[1] Households Below Average Income 2008-09

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question *(a)* 24112 and *(b)* 24113 on asbestos, tabled on 10 November for ordinary written answer. [28588]

Steve Webb: The hon. Member's questions were answered on 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 839-40W and 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 879-80W, respectively.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 23 November 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cyprus

The following is an extract from a closing speech given during the Westminster Hall debate on resolution of the situation in Cyprus by the Minister for Europe, the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington) on 16 November 2010.

Mr Lidington: We have given particular support to the work of the European Union's Committee on Missing Persons and we donate to its annual budget. As hon. Members know, the CMP has so far found just under 700 sets of human remains, both Greek and Turkish Cypriot.

[Official Report, 16 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 232WH.]

Letter of correction from Mr David Lidington:

An error has been identified in the 10th sentence of the fourth paragraph of the closing speech of 16 November 2010.

The correct sentence should have been:

Mr Lidington: We have given particular support to the work of the United Nations Committee on Missing Persons and we donate to its annual budget. As hon. Members know, the CMP has so far found just under 700 sets of human remains, both Greek and Turkish Cypriot.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 24 November 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Kosovo

The following is an extract from an oral statement given during the European Committee B debate on Kosovo by the Minister for Europe, the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington) on 15 November 2010.

Mr Lidington: That was a step forward, as was the transfer of responsibility for policing three of the chief places of religious and cultural importance to the Serbian population of Kosovo from EULEX to the Kosovan police themselves. We want more of that to happen.

[Official Report, 15 November 2010, European Committee B, c. 16.]

Letter of correction from Mr David Lidington:

An error has been identified in the fourth sentence of the third paragraph of the oral statement given by Mr David Lidington on 15 November 2010, European Committee B, c. 16.

Mr Lidington: That was a step forward, as was the transfer of responsibility for policing three of the chief places of religious and cultural importance to the Serbian population of Kosovo from KFOR to the Kosovan police themselves.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 25 November 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7563]

[Official Report, 15 July 2010, Vol. 513, c. 905-906W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Robert Neill:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Weaver Vale (Graham Evans) on 15 July 2010.

The errors are in lines one and six, and the total of the table:

Line 1: Communities and Local Government: £9,564,505. The figure should in fact be £4,894,583.

Line 6: Homes and Communities Agency: £11,913,217. The figure should in fact be £10,081,889.

Total: £25,690,648. The figure should in fact be £19,189,397.

The Housing and Communities Agency should read Homes and Communities Agency.

The full answer given was as follows:

Robert Neill: The following table shows total spend on legal advice for the last financial year for *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies. Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

2009-10	*Total (£)*
Communities and Local Government	9,564,505
Government Office Network	54,714
Planning Inspectorate	0
Fire Service College	41,659
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0
Housing and Communities Agency	11,913,217
Ordnance Survey	765,889
FireBuy	693,685
Audit Commission	0
Lease	3,000
Valuation Tribunal Service	55,567
Tenant Service Authority	0
Community Development Fund	19,646
Housing Ombudsman	24,702
Standards Board	0
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	1,197,041
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	996,364
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	360,657
Total	25,690,648

The answer should have been:

Robert Neill: The following table shows total spend on legal advice for the last financial year for *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies. Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

2009-10	*Total (£)*
Communities and Local Government	4,894,583
Government Office Network	54,714
Planning Inspectorate	0
Fire Service College	41,659
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0
Homes and Communities Agency	10,081,889
Ordnance Survey	765,889
FireBuy	693,685
Audit Commission	0
Lease	3,000
Valuation Tribunal Service	55,567
Tenant Service Authority	0
Community Development Fund	19,646
Housing Ombudsman	24,702
Standards Board	0
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	1,197,041
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	996,364
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	360,657
Total	19,189,397

Ministerial Correction

Monday 29 November 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Children

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which UK Border Agency offices provide child care when asylum seekers are being interviewed; and what plans she has for the future of that provision. [16932]

[Official Report, 13 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 299-300W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Damian Green:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson) on 13 October 2010.

The answer given was as follows:

Damian Green: We are committed to ensuring that parents who are being interviewed about their reasons for seeking protection are not placed in the position of having to give an account of personal victimisation or humiliation in the presence of their children. In general, applicants are advised in their letter of invitation not to bring their children to the interview but to make alternative arrangements.

For some families, child care will be easier to arrange-in London, for example, the majority of asylum applicants are able to reside with family and friends and as a result have a wider support network for child care. We do recognise, however, that this will not be possible for all families.

At present, the only UK Border Agency building that provides child care facilities when a parent is being interviewed about their asylum claim is in the North West. Additionally, however, in the West Midlands, the UK Border Agency is currently in the final stages of discussions with the Children's Society and hope to be in a position to provide a supervised play facility for the dependents of interviewees by January 2011. If these facilities prove successful and cost effective, we will consider extending this approach to other offices.

The answer should have been:

Damian Green: We are committed to ensuring that parents who are being interviewed about their reasons for seeking protection are not placed in the position of having to give an account of personal victimisation or humiliation in the presence of their children. In general, applicants are advised in their letter of invitation not to bring their children to the interview but to make alternative arrangements.

For some families, child care will be easier to arrange—in London, for example, the majority of asylum applicants are able to reside with family and friends and as a result have a wider support network for child care. We do recognise, however, that this will not be possible for all families.

At present, the UK Border Agency provides child care facilities when a parent is being interviewed about their asylum claim in the north-west, Wales and south-west, Leeds and in Glasgow.

Additionally, however, in the west midlands, the UK Border Agency is currently in the final stages of discussions with the Children's Society and hope to be in a position to provide a supervised play facility for the dependents of interviewees by January 2011. If these facilities prove successful and cost-effective, we will consider extending this approach to other offices.